

Foggy Trail Start

Trace how a narrative orients readers and moves events forward.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.3a “Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that establish the time, place, and purpose. Circle words that introduce the narrator or another character, then number the main events in the order they happen.

The First Signal

- ① On the last Friday of October, I arrived at the Harbor Point ferry dock before sunrise, carrying my grandfather’s old camera in a padded case. A thin fog covered the water, and the waiting room smelled like wet rope and coffee. I had promised Ms. Alvarez, the harbor historian, that I would photograph the reopening of the lighthouse trail. Although I had lived beside the bay all my life, I had never climbed the cliff path in the dark.
- ② When Ms. Alvarez arrived, she handed me a flashlight and pointed toward the trailhead across the parking lot. “The volunteers cleared it yesterday,” she said, “but stay close until the fog lifts.” I followed her past the silent ticket booths, listening to stones shift beneath our shoes. At the first bend, a gull burst from a railing and made me jump. Ms. Alvarez laughed softly, then showed me a rusted sign that marked the original route. I raised the camera, but its battery symbol flashed red.
- ③ Because the ceremony would begin in twenty minutes, I searched my bag for the spare battery I was sure I had packed. It was not there. Ms. Alvarez checked her watch, and I felt my face grow hot. Then I remembered leaving the battery in the ferry waiting room beside my notebook. I ran back down the path, crossed the parking lot, and found it under a bench. When I returned, the fog had thinned, the first hikers were gathering, and the lighthouse lamp blinked above us.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What details in the first paragraph establish the setting and situation for the reader?

2 Who tells the story, and what point of view does the passage use?

3 Who is Ms. Alvarez, and how is she connected to the narrator's task?

4 How does the event sequence move from the camera problem to its resolution?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph narrative of 120 to 150 words about solving a problem before an important event. Establish a clear time, place, first-person narrator, and another character, then organize the events in a logical order.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that establish the time, place, and purpose. Circle words that introduce the narrator or another character, then number the main events in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details in the first paragraph establish the setting and situation for the reader?	It is before sunrise on the last Friday of October at the Harbor Point ferry dock. The narrator is there to photograph the reopening of the lighthouse trail.
2	Who tells the story, and what point of view does the passage use?	An unnamed narrator tells the story using first-person point of view, shown by words such as "I" and "my."
3	Who is Ms. Alvarez, and how is she connected to the narrator's task?	Ms. Alvarez is the harbor historian. The narrator promised to photograph the trail reopening for her, and she guides the narrator toward the trail.
4	How does the event sequence move from the camera problem to its resolution?	The camera battery flashes red, the narrator cannot find the spare battery in the bag, then remembers leaving it in the waiting room. The narrator runs back, finds it under a bench, and returns before the ceremony.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, I unlocked our school greenhouse while rain tapped on the glass roof. My science partner, Devon, stood beside drooping bean plants. We had two days before the garden tour, and I worried that our project would look neglected. The watering system was silent. First, Devon checked the timer while I examined the tubes. A loose connector had slipped from the main line, leaving a puddle. I held the tube steady as Devon pushed the connector back. When we turned the valve, water moved through the line, but one plant still leaned. Next, I lifted the weakest plant and saw roots packed inside a tiny pot. Devon found a larger container, and we added fresh soil. By the time we cleaned the puddle, the leaves had begun to rise. I wrote about the repair, knowing visitors would see how we solved a problem together.

Accept equivalent responses that accurately identify textual evidence for context, point of view, character introduction, and sequence. For the writing task, look for a clear narrative situation, a first-person narrator, another character, and events that unfold logically.