

The Open Door

Tracing how a narrative ending resolves action and reflects on change.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3e "Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in the final paragraph that show what changed or was resolved. Circle the sentence that states Maya's final understanding.

The Tool Library

- ① On Saturday, Maya unlocked the door of the neighborhood tool library for the first time. She had volunteered after her grandfather complained that residents bought expensive tools they used once, then stored them in crowded garages. The library occupied one narrow room behind the community garden. Its shelves held drills, rakes, sewing machines, and a battered ladder. At nine o'clock, no one came. Maya wiped dust from the checkout desk, listening to rain tap the roof, and wondered whether the project would become another well-meant plan that quietly disappeared.
- ② Near noon, Mr. Alvarez arrived carrying a broken cabinet hinge and a paper list. He needed a drill, but he also asked Maya how to replace a loose screw without splitting the wood. Maya searched the instruction cards, then admitted she did not know. Together, they called her grandfather, who explained which drill bit to choose. Soon, two more neighbors entered, drawn by the open sign. One borrowed hedge clippers. Another offered to donate labeled bins. By afternoon, the rain had stopped, and the small room sounded busy with questions, laughter, and the click of tools being checked out.
- ③ When Maya locked up, she noticed that the shelves were not emptier by much. Yet the room no longer felt like a storage closet waiting for a purpose. Mr. Alvarez had left with his repaired hinge and promised to return the drill on Tuesday. The donated bins stood beside the desk, ready for labels. Maya wrote the day's borrowers in the log and added one question of her own: What other skills could neighbors share here? Walking past the wet garden beds, she understood that the library did not need to solve every problem at once. It needed people willing to arrive, ask, and return.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What worry from the opening paragraph does the ending address? Explain how the ending responds to that worry.

2 Identify two details from the final paragraph that show the tool library has begun to work.

3 Why does Maya notice that the shelves are “not emptier by much” before saying the room has changed?

4 What final understanding does Maya reach, and which earlier events lead her to that understanding?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90 to 120 word concluding paragraph for a narrative about helping organize a school art show. Earlier in the narrative, few people visit at first, then families arrive and a shy artist explains her work. Use at least two concrete details from the events and end with an insight that reflects on what changed.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in the final paragraph that show what changed or was resolved. Circle the sentence that states Maya's final understanding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What worry from the opening paragraph does the ending address? Explain how the ending responds to that worry.	Maya worries that the tool library will quietly disappear. The ending shows that neighbors have begun using, supporting, and returning to it.
2	Identify two details from the final paragraph that show the tool library has begun to work.	Mr. Alvarez leaves with a repaired hinge and promises to return the drill, and donated bins are ready to be labeled. Maya also records borrowers in the log.
3	Why does Maya notice that the shelves are "not emptier by much" before saying the room has changed?	The tools have not changed much physically, but the room now has a purpose because neighbors are using it and sharing help.
4	What final understanding does Maya reach, and which earlier events lead her to that understanding?	She understands that the library needs people who arrive, ask, and return. Mr. Alvarez's visit, her grandfather's advice, the other neighbors' borrowing, and the donation lead to this idea.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the last family left, I folded the program table while the hallway lights clicked off. The walls still held the same paintings and photographs, but I saw them differently after watching people stop, point, and ask questions. Lena, who had nearly removed her charcoal drawing before the show, was explaining its shadows to her father when I passed. We had not made the building crowded all evening, and some visitors had rushed by. Still, the artists had been seen. As I carried the sign-in sheet to the office, I knew that opening a door could be enough to start a conversation.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect the ending's concrete outcomes to Maya's changed understanding. For the writing task, accept varied conclusions if they include narrative details, show a resolution or outcome, and offer a reflection that grows from the events.