The Muddy Plan

Trace how story parts work together to move a plot.

ELA.5.R.1.1 "Analyze how setting, events, conflict, and characterization contribute to the plot in a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline setting details, circle the main conflict, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events that show how the character's choices move the story toward its ending.

Story Walk Surprise

1. On Saturday morning, Mara unlocked the small library book shed in Maple Park. Rain tapped the metal roof, and puddles filled the path to the soccer field. Mara had promised to set out books for the park's story walk before noon. She loved making lists and keeping plans, so she had packed each book in order inside a red wagon.

2. At the first bend, one wagon wheel sank into soft mud. The wagon tipped, and a stack of books slid toward a puddle. Mara grabbed the top book, then froze. If she pulled hard, more books might fall. Her cousin Leo, who had arrived to help, suggested carrying the books by hand. Mara frowned because that would take longer, but she saw he was right.

3. Mara and Leo carried small stacks beneath the shed roof, then rolled the empty wagon free. Mara changed her plan. Instead of placing books along the muddy path, they hung plastic-covered pages on the fence beside the basketball court. By noon, families could read the story without stepping in water. Mara thanked Leo and added a new note to her list: "Leave room for better ideas."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the setting create the main conflict in the story?

2. What does Mara's packed red wagon show about her character at the beginning? Use one detail from the passage.

3. How does Leo's suggestion change the events of the story?

4. How does Mara change by the end, and how does that change help solve the problem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about a character preparing for a community event. Include a setting-based conflict, an action that reveals the character's trait, and an ending that shows how the action affects the outcome.

ANSWER KEY

The Muddy Plan

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.R.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline setting details, circle the main conflict, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events that show how the character's choices move the story toward its ending. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the setting create the main conflict in the story?	**Rain makes the path muddy, causing the wagon wheel to sink and the books to slide toward a puddle.**
2	What does Mara's packed red wagon show about her character at the beginning? Use one detail from the passage.	**It shows that Mara is organized and likes plans. She packed each book in order and loves making lists.**
3	How does Leo's suggestion change the events of the story?	**He suggests carrying the books by hand, which helps Mara and Leo protect the books and free the empty wagon.**
4	How does Mara change by the end, and how does that change help solve the problem?	**Mara becomes more flexible. She changes her plan and uses plastic-covered pages on a fence, so families can read without walking through water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the windy beach cleanup, Nia's bags kept blowing across the sand. Instead of quitting, she asked volunteers to fill each bag with a few bottles before tying it shut. Her calm plan kept the group working, and the beach was cleaned before the tide rose.

Accept paraphrased answers that connect setting, events, conflict, and character traits to the plot. For Part 3, accept varied scenes if all required story parts are present and the character's action clearly affects the ending.