The Spinning Robot

Notice how a narrator builds a clear moment of challenge and response.

ELA.6.C.1 "Communicating Through Writing"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two transition words or phrases, circle one line of dialogue, and number the sentence that shows the narrator's final reflection. These choices help a reader follow the event and understand its meaning.

Showcase Surprise

1 On the morning of the robotics showcase, I carried our team's cardboard display through the school doors. Rain tapped the windows, and the halls smelled like wet coats. My partner, Luis, hurried beside me, holding the small robot in both hands. “The sensor worked during breakfast,” he said. I wanted to believe him, but my stomach felt like a twisted rope. We had spent three weeks teaching the robot to stop at a black line before the showcase.

2 When the judges entered the library, Luis placed the robot on the floor. First, it rolled toward the line with a quiet whir. Then it paused, as planned. Suddenly, a student's backpack strap slid across the sensor. The robot spun in a fast circle. I heard a few people laugh, and heat climbed into my face. Instead of grabbing the robot, Luis pointed to the loose strap. “Could you move that?” he asked calmly. The student quickly lifted it away.

3 After the strap was moved, the robot stopped at the black line. The judges nodded, and one wrote on a clipboard. Later, Luis and I carried our display back to class. We did not win the showcase, yet I no longer felt embarrassed. Our robot had failed for a moment, but we had solved a real problem without blaming anyone. As I packed the robot away, I decided that staying calm was part of building something together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What point of view does the narrator use? Copy one phrase from the passage that proves your answer.

2. Which transition word signals the unexpected problem? What problem happens next?

3. How does Luis's dialogue reveal his character during the problem?

4. What final reflection does the narrator make? Explain how it connects to the showcase event.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 6-sentence first-person narrative about a time when a plan did not work at first. Include at least two transition words or phrases, one line of dialogue, a sensory detail, and a final reflection about what you learned.

ANSWER KEY

The Spinning Robot

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two transition words or phrases, circle one line of dialogue, and number the sentence that shows the narrator's final reflection. These choices help a reader follow the event and understand its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point of view does the narrator use? Copy one phrase from the passage that proves your answer.	**First-person point of view. Evidence may include "I carried" or "my stomach felt like a twisted rope."**
2	Which transition word signals the unexpected problem? What problem happens next?	**"Suddenly." A student's backpack strap slides across the sensor, causing the robot to spin in a circle.**
3	How does Luis's dialogue reveal his character during the problem?	**His calm request, "Could you move that?" shows that he stays calm and tries to solve the problem.**
4	What final reflection does the narrator make? Explain how it connects to the showcase event.	**The narrator decides that staying calm is part of building something together. This connects to how Luis and the narrator solve the robot problem without blaming anyone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During art club, I lifted my clay bowl from the shelf and felt it wobble in my hands. First, I set it on the table, but a crack spread along its rim. "We can repair it before it dries," Maya said as the room smelled of damp clay. Then I pressed soft clay into the crack and smoothed it with a wet sponge. After a few minutes, the bowl held its round shape again. I learned that asking for help can turn a mistake into a solution.

Accept equivalent evidence and explanations that accurately connect narrative choices to the event. For the narrative, check for six sentences, first-person point of view, transitions, dialogue, sensory detail, and a concluding reflection.