

One Small Rescue

A first-person narrative model with sequencing and detail.

ELA.8.C.1.2 "Write personal or fictional narratives using narrative techniques, varied transitions, and a clearly established point of view."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three transition words or phrases, circle two details that show the narrator's first-person point of view, and number three events in the order they happen. These marks show how a narrator guides a reader through an experience.

Chasing the Lantern

- ① By the time I reached the dock, the sun had slipped behind the hills, and the lake looked like dark glass. I had promised my little brother, Mateo, that I would bring home our paper lantern after the town festival. Instead, a gust had pulled it from my hand. Now it bobbed near the old boathouse, just beyond the ropes that marked the swimming area. My stomach tightened. Mateo had painted a red fox on that lantern, using every marker in his box.
- ② First, I kicked off my sandals and stepped onto the shallow rocks. Cold water pressed through my socks, but I kept moving. "Wait here," I called to Mateo, though he was already hugging his elbows on the shore. As I reached for the lantern, a wave shoved it under the dock. For one sharp second, I imagined returning empty-handed. Then I spotted its pale square drifting between two posts. I crouched, stretched my arm into the water, and caught the wire handle. When I stood, Mateo whooped and a heron lifted from the reeds.
- ③ On the walk home, Mateo carried the lantern carefully, although one corner sagged from the water. "The fox looks like it survived a storm," he said. I laughed, finally able to breathe normally. Meanwhile, the festival lights blinked behind us, small and warm along the road. I realized that I had not saved a perfect lantern. I had saved the work Mateo had trusted me to protect. At our gate, he held it up between us. The red fox gleamed, and this time I did not let go.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What point of view does the narrator use? Cite two pronouns from the passage that prove your answer.

2 How does the line "Wait here" reveal something about the narrator?

3 Identify three transition words or phrases that move the events forward. Explain what each one signals.

4 Choose one sensory detail from the passage. How does it make the rescue scene more vivid?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a fictional two-paragraph narrative of 140 to 180 words about being responsible for something important. Use first-person point of view and include dialogue, a sensory detail, an action and reaction, at least three varied transition words or phrases, and a clear change in the narrator's thinking or feeling.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three transition words or phrases, circle two details that show the narrator's first-person point of view, and number three events in the order they happen. These marks show how a narrator guides a reader through an experience. 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? Cite two pronouns from the passage that prove your answer.	First-person point of view. Pronouns include "I," "my," and "me."
2	How does the line "Wait here" reveal something about the narrator?	It shows that the narrator is concerned for Mateo's safety while trying to retrieve the lantern.
3	Identify three transition words or phrases that move the events forward. Explain what each one signals.	Answers may include "First," which begins the narrator's action; "Then," which moves to the next discovery; and "On the walk home," which shifts to the events after the rescue.
4	Choose one sensory detail from the passage. How does it make the rescue scene more vivid?	"Cold water pressed through my socks" makes the scene vivid by helping the reader feel the uncomfortable water as the narrator moves toward the lantern.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When I stepped into the school greenhouse, the air smelled of wet soil and crushed mint. I had volunteered to water the seedlings before the science fair, but the room was crowded with tall shelves and dripping hoses. First, I filled a plastic can at the sink and carried it toward the tomato plants. My hands shook because I had never been trusted with the greenhouse key. "Just pour slowly," Mr. Chen had told me. Suddenly, my shoe caught a hose, and water splashed across the floor. I froze, certain I had ruined everything. Then I noticed that the hose nozzle had come loose, not my watering can. Afterward, I twisted it closed and mopped the puddle with paper towels. By the time Mr. Chen returned, my sleeves were muddy, but the seedlings stood upright in neat, shining rows. "You handled that well," he said. I left holding the key more carefully, yet feeling less afraid of it.

Accept equivalent evidence and explanations that accurately connect first-person narration, transitions, dialogue, sensory detail, or actions to the passage. For the writing task, accept original narratives that meet the length, structure, point of view, and technique requirements.