Story Path Markers

See how a clear beginning, middle, and ending organize a story.

3.T.SS.1 "Organization: Demonstrate and apply understanding of organizational structures and elements to create coherent and engaging texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first sentence in each paragraph. Circle the words that show when events happen, so you can see how the story moves from beginning to end.

Nia's Missing Lunchbox

1. On Monday morning, Nia carried her shiny new lunchbox to school. At recess, she set it under a bench near the playground so she could play tag. When the bell rang, Nia hurried inside with her class. Later, she opened her backpack and noticed that her lunchbox was gone. Her apple and sandwich were inside.

2. First, Nia told Ms. Chen what had happened. Then she walked back to the playground with her friend Omar. They looked under the bench, beside the slide, and near the gate. A kindergarten class was lining up nearby. One child pointed to a blue lunchbox resting by the water fountain. Its silver handle sparkled brightly in the warm sun.

3. Finally, Nia thanked the child and carried her lunchbox to the cafeteria. She still had time to eat before math class. Nia learned that hurrying can cause problems, so she planned to put her lunchbox in her backpack after recess. The next day, she played tag again, but her lunchbox stayed in class all day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the first paragraph do for the story?

2. How does the second paragraph move the story forward?

3. Write three words that show the order of events in the story.

4. Why is the third paragraph a good ending?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph story about solving a small problem. In paragraph 1, introduce the person and problem, in paragraph 2, show the actions, and in paragraph 3, tell the result or lesson. Use at least two time-order words.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.T.SS.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence in each paragraph. Circle the words that show when events happen, so you can see how the story moves from beginning to end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the first paragraph do for the story?	**It introduces Nia, the school recess setting, and the problem that her lunchbox is missing.**
2	How does the second paragraph move the story forward?	**Nia looks for her lunchbox, and a child points to where it is.**
3	Write three words that show the order of events in the story.	**First, Then, Finally.**
4	Why is the third paragraph a good ending?	**It solves the problem, tells what Nia learned, and shows what she will do differently.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday, Eli wanted to build a paper airplane, but his first one would not fly straight. It dipped to the floor each time he tossed it. First, Eli asked his sister to watch the wings. Then he saw that one wing was folded wider than the other. He unfolded the paper and made both sides match. Finally, Eli threw the airplane across the room. It glided to the rug near the door. Eli learned that careful folding helps a plane fly.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each paragraph's job if they match the passage. For the writing task, accept any clear three-paragraph story with an introduction, connected middle actions, an ending, and at least two time-order words.