Sunflower Story Steps

Notice how sequence transitions connect ideas across paragraphs.

4.T.SS.1.d "Craft related sentences into cohesive paragraphs that follow a chosen structure using transitions. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word or phrase that shows time order. Then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the order of the sunflower's stages.

A Sunflower's Journey

(1) First, a sunflower seed rests in warm, moist soil. Water softens its coat, and a tiny root pushes downward. Soon, a shoot grows upward toward sunlight. The seedling uses food stored inside the seed until its first green leaves open. At this stage, the young plant needs light, water, and space to grow strong and healthy.

(2) Next, the plant makes more leaves. Each leaf captures sunlight and uses it to make sugar from water and carbon dioxide. This process gives the sunflower energy to build a taller stem and larger leaves. As the stem lengthens, the roots spread through the soil. They take in water and minerals that help the plant grow.

(3) Finally, when the sunflower is mature, a flower bud opens into a large yellow bloom. Bees and other insects visit the flower and move pollen between blooms. Later, seeds form in the flower head. When the head dries, birds may eat some seeds, while people can save others to plant next year in their gardens.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What structure organizes the whole passage? Explain how you know.

2. Which sentence in paragraph 2 connects back to the leaves at the end of paragraph 1?

3. What does the transition word “Next” tell you about paragraph 2?

4. Why would paragraph 3 not make sense before paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one four-sentence paragraph that shows the steps for packing for a rainy-day walk. Use at least three time-order transitions, and keep every sentence connected to the same task.

ANSWER KEY

Sunflower Story Steps

GRADE 4 · 4.T.SS.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every word or phrase that shows time order. Then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the order of the sunflower's stages. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What structure organizes the whole passage? Explain how you know.	**Sequence, or time order. The passage tells the sunflower's stages from seed to mature flower and seeds.**
2	Which sentence in paragraph 2 connects back to the leaves at the end of paragraph 1?	**"Next, the plant makes more leaves."**
3	What does the transition word "Next" tell you about paragraph 2?	**It tells the reader that paragraph 2 explains the stage after the seedling stage in paragraph 1.**
4	Why would paragraph 3 not make sense before paragraph 2?	**A sunflower must grow leaves, roots, and a taller stem before it can become mature, bloom, and form seeds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I check the weather and find my raincoat. Next, I put on waterproof boots and pack an umbrella. Then, I place a water bottle in my backpack. Finally, I step outside ready to stay dry.

Accept sequence, chronological order, or time order for the passage structure. For the writing task, accept any clear four-sentence paragraph with related steps and at least three accurate time-order transitions.