# From Mystery to Home

Notice how a writer guides a reader's feelings.

**5.T.T.1** "Narrative Techniques: Explain, analyze, and use narrative techniques to shape understandings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two details that make the beginning feel tense. Circle the sentence where the mood changes from worry to relief, then number three actions that move the problem toward a solution.

### The Return Box

1. At dusk, Maya carried the library's return box across the empty playground. Wind pushed dry leaves against the fence, making a scratchy whisper. The box was heavier than she expected, and its lid bumped against her knee. Near the climbing wall, she heard a tiny thump from inside. Maya stopped. "Is someone in there?" she asked, holding her breath.

2. She set the box beneath a lamp beside the school door. The yellow light showed a striped tail slipping through a crack near the lid. Maya remembered the missing cat poster in the library window. Her hands shook, but she slowly lifted the lid. A frightened kitten blinked up at her and gave one small meow.

3. Maya laughed with relief and wrapped her scarf around the kitten. Then she noticed a silver tag on its collar. It read, "Pip, 14 Cedar Lane." Maya called her father, and together they walked to the address. When a boy opened the door, Pip leaped into his arms. The boy's worried face softened. "Thank you for bringing him home," he said.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the description of the wind and leaves help shape the mood at the beginning?

2. How do Maya's actions of stopping and holding her breath affect the pace of the story?

3. What does Maya's question, “Is someone in there?” reveal about her?

4. How does the writer change the mood at the end? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4-sentence scene about finding something unexpected. Use one sensory detail, one line of dialogue, and actions that first build tension and then show a change in mood.

ANSWER KEY

# From Mystery to Home

GRADE 5 · 5.T.T.1

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that make the beginning feel tense. Circle the sentence where the mood changes from worry to relief, then number three actions that move the problem toward a solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does the description of the wind and leaves help shape the mood at the beginning? | **It makes the playground seem quiet and uneasy, which builds tension.** |
| 2 | How do Maya's actions of stopping and holding her breath affect the pace of the story? | **They slow the action and make the reader wait to learn what is inside the box.** |
| 3 | What does Maya's question, "Is someone in there?" reveal about her? | **It shows that she is worried and curious about the sound in the box.** |
| 4 | How does the writer change the mood at the end? Use one detail from the passage in your answer. | **The mood changes from tense to relieved and happy. For example, Pip leaps into the boy's arms, and the boy's worried face softens.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain tapped the bus shelter roof as Leo spotted a backpack under the bench. He reached for it, then pulled back when it buzzed. "Did you hear that?" he whispered. A phone inside lit up with a message from its worried owner, and Leo smiled as he carried the backpack to the driver.

Accept supported explanations of how details, dialogue, and actions shape mood or pacing. For Part 3, accept varied situations if the response has four sentences and includes the required techniques and mood shift.