The Missing Spring

Notice how a narrator builds a moment through actions, details, and reflection.

7.P.EICC.2.a "Share real or imagined experiences by interpreting and constructing texts that tell or include stories. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show what the narrator sees, hears, or feels. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the beginning, turning point, and ending of the experience.

A Useful Morning

1 On Saturday, I volunteered at the Riverbend Library's repair café, where neighbors brought broken lamps, radios, and toys. I expected to sort screws, but Mr. Alvarez handed me a silent blue alarm clock. Its plastic case was scratched, and the minute hand hung loose. When I opened the back, a tiny spring rolled across the table. My stomach tightened as it disappeared beneath a box of donated books. I froze, afraid I had ruined the clock completely.

2 Mr. Alvarez did not rush to fix it for me. He pointed to a flashlight on the shelf and said, "Try looking from the floor." I knelt, sweeping the beam under the table. The light caught a silver curl beside a backpack strap. I laughed so loudly that two people looked over. After I returned the spring, we fitted it into place with tweezers. The clock clicked once, then began ticking in a steady, cheerful rhythm.

3 Before leaving, I set the repaired clock on the library's checkout desk. Its hands showed 3:17, although it was nearly noon, and that mistake made everyone smile. Mr. Alvarez asked whether I wanted to take the clock home. I shook my head. "Someone else might need it," I said. As I walked outside, rain tapped the library windows, but I barely noticed. I kept hearing the clock's small tick, a sound that made the morning feel useful.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem does the narrator face in paragraph 1, and how does the narrator feel about it?

2. How does Mr. Alvarez's advice change what the narrator does?

3. What event is the turning point of the experience? Explain why it changes the situation.

4. What do the narrator's choice to leave the clock and the final thought reveal about the experience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 8-sentence first-person story about a time you solved a small problem, or imagine such a time. Include a setting, a challenge, at least two sensory details, a thought or line of dialogue, and an ending that shows how the experience changed your feelings.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Spring

GRADE 7 · 7.P.EICC.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show what the narrator sees, hears, or feels. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the beginning, turning point, and ending of the experience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does the narrator face in paragraph 1, and how does the narrator feel about it?	**A tiny spring rolls away beneath a box of books. The narrator freezes and fears ruining the clock.**
2	How does Mr. Alvarez's advice change what the narrator does?	**The narrator kneels and uses a flashlight to look under the table, which helps locate the spring.**
3	What event is the turning point of the experience? Explain why it changes the situation.	**The narrator spots the spring beside a backpack strap. Finding it makes it possible to put the clock back together.**
4	What do the narrator's choice to leave the clock and the final thought reveal about the experience?	**The narrator wants someone else to benefit from the repaired clock and feels that the work was useful.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the community garden, I carried a tray of tomato seedlings to the new beds. A sharp wind bent their thin stems, and damp soil dotted my shoes. When the tray tipped, three seedlings slid onto the path. “Hold still,” I whispered, even though plants cannot listen. I felt heat rise in my face as I gathered them carefully. Maya brought a bucket, and we pressed the roots into fresh soil. By afternoon, the leaves had lifted toward the sun. I left with muddy hands and the calm feeling that small repairs can matter.

Accept paraphrased answers that identify the narrator's problem, actions, change in feelings, and final reflection using passage evidence. For Part 3, accept real or imagined narratives that meet the sentence, detail, sequence, and reflection requirements.