When Plans Shift

Trace how one event leads naturally to the next.

11-12.W.3.b "Create a smooth progression of experiences or events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number four key actions in the order they happen, and underline details that explain why each action follows the one before it.

The Blank Screen

1 At dusk, Mara taped the last corner of the screen to the library wall. Folding chairs faced the courtyard, where neighbors had gathered to watch her class's film about the old train station. She had promised Mr. Bell, the former ticket clerk, that his recorded story would be heard tonight. When she pressed play, his face appeared for three seconds. Then the projector clicked, and the image vanished. Mara checked the cable, but its plug was firmly seated. While the audience shifted in their chairs, she glanced at the projector's display and read its message: LAMP FAILURE.

2 With no spare lamp in the supply case, Mara reached for the transcript she had used while editing the film. She could still share the story, but reading it alone would erase the voice that made it matter. She walked to Mr. Bell's chair and asked whether he would tell the first part himself. He looked toward the blank screen, then nodded. At the front, his opening words disappeared beneath traffic from the street. Mara moved the chairs toward the library steps, where the brick walls sheltered the group from the noise.

3 Once everyone had settled near the steps, Mr. Bell began again. He described stamping tickets on winter mornings when travelers arrived with snow on their coats. Mara held up a copy of an old timetable as he spoke, using one of the film's props to give listeners something to see. A woman in the second row raised her hand: she had taken that train to her first job. Mr. Bell asked her to tell the rest. As more neighbors added their memories, Mara took down the unused screen, certain that his story had reached them after all.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What stops Mara's original plan, and what does she reach for next?

2. Why does Mara ask Mr. Bell to speak instead of reading the transcript herself?

3. What problem arises when Mr. Bell first speaks, and how does Mara's next action address it?

4. How does the ending fulfill the promise Mara made at the start, despite the change in plans?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 6 to 8 sentences about a plan that changes when an obstacle appears. Show at least three connected actions, include details that explain why each follows the last, and end with a result shaped by those actions.

ANSWER KEY # When Plans Shift

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number four key actions in the order they happen, and underline details that explain why each action follows the one before it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What stops Mara's original plan, and what does she reach for next?	**The projector reports a lamp failure, and Mara reaches for the film transcript because there is no spare lamp.**
2	Why does Mara ask Mr. Bell to speak instead of reading the transcript herself?	**She wants the neighbors to hear his voice, which she believes is an important part of the story.**
3	What problem arises when Mr. Bell first speaks, and how does Mara's next action address it?	**Traffic drowns out his words, so Mara moves the chairs near the library steps, where the brick walls shelter the group from the noise.**
4	How does the ending fulfill the promise Mara made at the start, despite the change in plans?	**Mara promised that Mr. Bell's story would be heard. He tells it in person, and neighbors join in with their own memories.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday, I carried a box of tomato seedlings to the community garden before the forecast rain. The gate was locked, and water had already begun pooling along the fence. Because the caretaker lived next door, I knocked on her porch instead of leaving the plants outside. She opened the gate, but the garden beds were too muddy to hold new roots. We carried the seedlings into the greenhouse and spread newspaper beneath their trays. By the time rain struck the roof, the plants were dry, and I had a new plan for planting them on Monday.

Accept different choices of four key actions if they follow the passage's order and the underlined details show why the actions connect. For the original paragraph, look for a clear obstacle, connected decisions, and an ending that follows from those decisions.