A Safer Crossing

Track a problem, its solution, and the order of events.

3.RC.8 "Identify how a nonfiction text can be structured to indicate a problem and solution or to put events in chronological order."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words that show the order of events, underline the sentence that tells the main problem, and draw a box around the sentence that introduces the solution.

The Salamander Tunnel

1. On rainy spring nights, spotted salamanders leave the woods and travel to ponds to lay eggs. First, they creep across wet leaves. Then they reach a road between the woods and the pond. Cars on the road can hit the salamanders as they cross. Because the salamanders move slowly, they cannot always get out of a car's path in time.

2. To help, workers built a small tunnel under the road. They also put low fences along both sides of it. The fences guide the animals toward the tunnel opening instead of letting them wander onto the road. When the next rainy night came, the salamanders reached the fence. Next, they followed it to the tunnel and crawled under the road.

3. At the far end, the salamanders came out near the pond. Finally, they slipped into the water to lay their eggs. A tunnel does not make every crossing safe, but it gives the animals another way past traffic. The fences matter, too. Without them, some salamanders might miss the tunnel. This path lets many salamanders cross without stepping onto the road.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem leads the workers to build a tunnel?

2. What happens first on the salamanders' trip, and what happens when they reach the road?

3. Why are the low fences part of the solution?

4. What happens after the salamanders follow the fence? What do they do finally?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a different problem and a solution. Use **First** and **Then** to show the order of two actions that help solve it.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.RC.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words that show the order of events, underline the sentence that tells the main problem, and draw a box around the sentence that introduces the solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem leads the workers to build a tunnel?	**Cars can hit salamanders as they cross the road to reach the pond.**
2	What happens first on the salamanders' trip, and what happens when they reach the road?	**First, they creep across wet leaves. Then they reach the road.**
3	Why are the low fences part of the solution?	**The fences guide salamanders to the tunnel instead of letting them wander onto the road.**
4	What happens after the salamanders follow the fence? What do they do finally?	**They crawl through the tunnel under the road. Finally, they slip into the pond to lay eggs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our classroom plants drooped because their soil was dry. First, I touched the soil to check it. Then I poured water into each pot until the soil felt damp. The plants had the water they needed.

For the marking job, accept time-order words such as First, Then, Next, and Finally. Students should underline the sentence about cars hitting salamanders and box the sentence about workers building the tunnel.