The Puddle Race

Notice how details and event order shape a story.

3.W.4.b "Include specific descriptive details and clear event sequences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number these three events in the passage: Maya makes a boat, her boat hits a twig, and Maya fixes her boat. Underline two details that help you picture the scene.

The Puddle Race

1 After the rain, Maya found a long puddle beside the school garden. Its brown water shone under the gray sky. She folded a square of foil into a tiny boat and pressed its sides high. She tucked a bright yellow petal inside. Her friend Leo made a boat from a leaf. They set both boats at one end of the puddle, then waited for the wind to blow.

2 A cool gust pushed the boats across the water. Leo's leaf spun in a slow circle, but Maya's foil boat slid straight ahead. Suddenly, the foil boat bumped into a twig near the middle. Water began to spill over one side. Maya crouched beside the puddle and reached for a thin stick lying on the wet grass.

3 First, Maya used the stick to move the twig out of the way. Then she lifted her boat and pinched its bent side back into shape. She placed it on the water again. A second gust sent both boats toward the far end. Leo's leaf touched the bank first. Maya laughed as her boat came in just behind it, still carrying one bright yellow petal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two details help you picture the puddle at the start?

2. What happened after the first gust of wind but before Maya reached for a stick?

3. What did Maya do first to help her stuck boat? What did she do next?

4. Which details tell you how the race ended and what Maya's boat was carrying?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a scene about a small problem during a game you invent. In 5 or 6 sentences, tell what happens first, next, and last, and include at least two specific details that help readers picture the scene.

ANSWER KEY

The Puddle Race

GRADE 3 · 3.W.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number these three events in the passage: Maya makes a boat, her boat hits a twig, and Maya fixes her boat. Underline two details that help you picture the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two details help you picture the puddle at the start?	**The puddle was long, and its brown water shone under the gray sky.**
2	What happened after the first gust of wind but before Maya reached for a stick?	**Maya's boat bumped into a twig, and water began to spill over one side.**
3	What did Maya do first to help her stuck boat? What did she do next?	**First she moved the twig with a stick. Next she lifted her boat and pinched its bent side back into shape.**
4	Which details tell you how the race ended and what Maya's boat was carrying?	**Leo's leaf reached the bank first. Maya's boat came in just behind it, still carrying the yellow petal.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, Nia and I played Moon Landing by rolling blue marbles into a chalk circle. My marble bounced off a pebble and rolled under a wooden bench. Next, I knelt on the rough sidewalk and spotted it near a rusty leg. I pulled it out with a long twig. Then we moved the pebble away from the circle. Last, my marble rolled into the chalk moon, and Nia cheered.

For the marking job, accept any two specific details from the passage that help a reader picture the scene. For the writing task, look for 5 or 6 sentences with a clear event order, a small problem, and at least two specific descriptive details.