The Paw Print Trail

Notice how a story moves from one event to the next

3.W.4.d "Connect ideas and events using introduction and transition words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the opening words that tell when the story begins. Circle the words or phrases at the beginnings of sentences that connect one event to another.

Pip's Library Visit

1. On Tuesday morning, our class found a tiny trail of muddy paw prints outside our door. First, we followed the prints past the drinking fountain. Soon, they turned toward the library. Ms. Lee held up a hand so we would walk quietly. Behind a shelf, we heard a soft scratching sound. I hoped we had found the owner of the prints.

2. Meanwhile, our librarian, Mr. Chen, checked behind the shelf. A small dog was caught between two book carts, but it was not hurt. Next, he rolled one cart aside, and the dog trotted out. Its blue collar had a phone number on it. We called the number from the library desk. Then we set out a bowl of water while we waited.

3. Finally, a woman came to the school office and asked for her dog, Pip. She explained that Pip had slipped out when she opened the front gate. After that, Mr. Chen walked Pip to the office, where the woman was waiting. As soon as Pip saw her, his tail thumped against her shoes. By lunchtime, the muddy prints were gone, but our story was still going around the classroom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which opening words tell when the story begins?

2. Which word shows that following the prints was the class's first step?

3. Which word shows that Mr. Chen checked behind the shelf while the narrator hoped they had found the animal?

4. Which words connect the woman's arrival to Mr. Chen walking Pip to the office?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a time you made or fixed something, real or made up. Begin with words that tell when your story starts, and use at least two different transition words or phrases to connect the events.

ANSWER KEY

The Paw Print Trail

GRADE 3 · 3.W.4.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the opening words that tell when the story begins. Circle the words or phrases at the beginnings of sentences that connect one event to another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which opening words tell when the story begins?	**On Tuesday morning**
2	Which word shows that following the prints was the class's first step?	**First**
3	Which word shows that Mr. Chen checked behind the shelf while the narrator hoped they had found the animal?	**Meanwhile**
4	Which words connect the woman's arrival to Mr. Chen walking Pip to the office?	**After that**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One rainy afternoon, I made a toy car from a small box. First, I taped four bottle caps to its sides. Next, I drew bright stripes on the roof. Finally, I pushed the car across the kitchen floor.

Students should underline “On Tuesday morning” and circle “First,” “Soon,” “Meanwhile,” “Next,” “Then,” “Finally,” “After that,” “As soon as,” and “By lunchtime.” For Part 3, accept four connected sentences with an opening time phrase and at least two different transitions.