Sounds on Cue

Trace how a story moves from a problem to a solution.

6.W.3.b "Organize an event sequence (e.g., conflict, climax, resolution) that unfolds naturally and logically, using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that show when events happen or when the action moves to a new place. Then number four major events in the order they happen, from the problem to the solution.

The Missing Sound Tin

1. On Friday afternoon, Maya carried a metal tin of sound effects into the school gym. That evening, her class would perform a radio play for families. Maya's tin held dry beans for rain, wooden blocks for footsteps, and a little bell for the final scene. During rehearsal, she set it beside the stage curtain. When she came back from helping with chairs, the tin was gone. She checked under every folding chair, but the audience began to arrive before she found it.

2. After the lights dimmed, Maya slipped into the hallway to ask the custodian about the tin. He pointed toward a cart of supplies he had moved from the gym. The cart was locked in a storage room, and he had left his keys at the far end of the building. Before they could return, the first actors stepped onstage. Maya hurried back into the gym. When the narrator called for rain, she had only a paper program in her hands.

3. For one long second, Maya froze. Then she rubbed the program between her palms, making a soft hiss. A classmate tapped two pencils on a chair for footsteps, while another shook coins in a cup for the bell. The actors kept going, and the audience leaned closer to hear. After the curtain call, the custodian returned with Maya's tin. She thanked him, then wrote down the new sounds. At Monday's rehearsal, the class used both the tin and their quick inventions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which event causes Maya's problem? What time phrase shows that it happens before the audience arrives?

2. Which phrase signals that Maya moves from the gym to the hallway? Why does she go there?

3. What event puts the most pressure on Maya to act, and which transition word introduces her response?

4. Which phrase moves the story to another day? What happens at that time?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 6- to 8-sentence scene about a problem during a school event. Show what causes the problem, a turning point, and a solution; use at least three different transitions that signal time or place, including a jump to another day.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that show when events happen or when the action moves to a new place. Then number four major events in the order they happen, from the problem to the solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which event causes Maya's problem? What time phrase shows that it happens before the audience arrives?	**The sound tin disappears. "During rehearsal" shows that this happens before the audience arrives.**
2	Which phrase signals that Maya moves from the gym to the hallway? Why does she go there?	**"After the lights dimmed" begins the move to the hallway. Maya goes there to ask the custodian about the tin.**
3	What event puts the most pressure on Maya to act, and which transition word introduces her response?	**The narrator calls for rain while Maya has only a paper program. "Then" introduces her choice to rub the program to make a sound.**
4	Which phrase moves the story to another day? What happens at that time?	**"At Monday's rehearsal" moves the story to another day. The class uses both the tin and the sounds they invented.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, Eli placed the class's paper lantern beside the stage before the poetry show. While he helped hang curtains, someone bumped the table, and the lantern tore along one side. Minutes before the show, Eli rushed to the art room for tape, but the supply drawer was empty. Back in the auditorium, the lights faded and the first reader walked onstage. Just then, Eli noticed a stack of blue tissue paper near the door. He folded it over the tear, and his friend held the lantern steady while he tied it with string. At Wednesday's class meeting, they used Eli's fix to plan sturdier decorations for the next show.

Accept other four-event sequences if they follow the passage's order and include the problem and solution. For Part 3, look for a logical cause, turning point, and solution, plus three distinct transitions, one of which moves to another day.