The Crooked Bridge

Trace how time and place shifts shape a narrative.

8.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 Number Nia's paper tests, the bridge's failure, her search for supplies, and the judges' test in the order they happened. Underline words or clauses that move the story to another time or place.

One More Test

1 At 6:45 on Thursday evening, the school gym smelled of popcorn and wet coats. Nia set her paper bridge between two desks while visitors gathered for the engineering showcase. Across the aisle, a fan rattled beside the window. When its breeze lifted one end of the bridge, a glued support peeled away. The bridge sagged before the first weight could be added. The judges were moving down the aisle, and Nia had no glue left. She slid the bridge off the desks and hurried toward the art room.

2 Earlier that afternoon, in the art room, Nia had tested several scraps of paper. Flat strips bent under a stack of coins, but strips folded into triangles stayed stiff. She had used glue on her final bridge because it looked neater, then tucked the folded scraps in her supply bag. Now, back in the same room, she dumped the bag onto a table. Most scraps were too short. At the bottom, though, she found two long folded strips and a roll of tape. Footsteps sounded in the hallway.

3 By the time Nia returned to the gym, the judges were one table away. She taped the folded strips beneath the bridge and set it between the desks again. As the first judge placed a coin on top, the bridge dipped; with the next coin, it held steady. Nia held her breath until the final coin landed. The bridge stayed up. Later that night, she wrote one sentence beside her design sketch: 'A strong shape matters more than a smooth surface.' She kept the crooked bridge on her shelf.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the story show Nia's afternoon paper tests after the bridge sags, even though the tests happened first?

2. Which phrase moves the story from Nia's earlier tests to her search for supplies? What does she find?

3. Which phrase returns the story to the gym? How does it show that Nia must act quickly?

4. Which phrase moves the story past the judging? What does Nia do after that shift?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 6 to 8 sentences about a problem during a school event other than the bridge test. Show the problem, a turning point, and a resolution; use a phrase that shifts to an earlier time, a phrase that shifts setting, and a clause beginning with "When" or "As" to connect events.

The Crooked Bridge

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number Nia's paper tests, the bridge's failure, her search for supplies, and the judges' test in the order they happened. Underline words or clauses that move the story to another time or place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the story show Nia's afternoon paper tests after the bridge sags, even though the tests happened first?	**The shift to the earlier tests explains how Nia knows folded strips might repair the bridge.**
2	Which phrase moves the story from Nia's earlier tests to her search for supplies? What does she find?	**"Now, back in the same room" returns to her search. She finds two long folded strips and a roll of tape.**
3	Which phrase returns the story to the gym? How does it show that Nia must act quickly?	**"By the time Nia returned to the gym" marks the setting shift. The judges are only one table away.**
4	Which phrase moves the story past the judging? What does Nia do after that shift?	**"Later that night" moves the story forward. Nia writes a lesson beside her sketch and keeps the bridge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the school concert, Leo discovered that his trumpet's mouthpiece was missing just as the band took its seats. Earlier that afternoon, he had practiced in the music room and set the mouthpiece on a blue folder. He hurried back there, but the table was empty. Meanwhile, in the hallway, a custodian was carrying a stack of folders toward the office. When Leo spotted the blue one on top, he asked the custodian to stop. The mouthpiece had rolled into its front pocket, and Leo raced back before the first note. After the concert, he put it in a zippered case.

For the marking job, the order is paper tests, bridge failure, search for supplies, judges' test. Accept other accurate time or place cues students underline, including "Earlier that afternoon" and "Later that night."