Maze Moves

A model story about steps, surprises, and solutions

C.3.1.d "Use grade-appropriate transitions to connect sentences and paragraphs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words or phrases that connect ideas between sentences. Underline the opening words of paragraphs 2 and 3 that show when the story moves forward.

The Marble's Bumpy Ride

1. On Monday, Nia and Omar made a marble maze from a cereal box. First, they drew a winding path on the cardboard. Next, they glued strips of paper along the lines to make walls. Omar cut a small hole for the finish. Finally, Nia placed a marble at the start, but it stopped at the first sharp turn. They decided to fix that turn after school the next day.

2. The next day, they looked closely at the sharp turn. At first, Omar wanted to push the marble harder. However, Nia noticed that the paper wall bent into the path. Because of this, they moved the wall back and made the turn wider. Then they rolled the marble again. This time, it passed the turn but fell off the box before it reached the finish hole.

3. On Wednesday, the pair worked on the open edge of the box. First, they added a low wall to keep the marble on the path. After that, they tested the maze three times. Each time, the marble reached the finish hole without falling off. In the end, Nia and Omar let their classmates try it. One classmate asked to make a maze of her own.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which word in paragraph 1 shows that Nia and Omar built the walls after drawing the path?

2. What change in ideas does “However” show in paragraph 2?

3. What problem does “Because of this” point back to, and what did Nia and Omar do?

4. How do the opening words of paragraphs 2 and 3 help you follow the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about making or fixing something other than a marble maze. Use transitions to show what happened next and what changed or caused a new step. End by telling how it turned out.

ANSWER KEY

Maze Moves

GRADE 3 · C.3.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words or phrases that connect ideas between sentences. Underline the opening words of paragraphs 2 and 3 that show when the story moves forward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word in paragraph 1 shows that Nia and Omar built the walls after drawing the path?	**Next.**
2	What change in ideas does "However" show in paragraph 2?	**Omar wanted to push the marble harder, but Nia noticed that the wall was blocking its path.**
3	What problem does "Because of this" point back to, and what did Nia and Omar do?	**The wall bent into the path, so they moved it back and made the turn wider.**
4	How do the opening words of paragraphs 2 and 3 help you follow the story?	**"The next day" and "On Wednesday" show that the work continued on later days, in time order.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I folded a sheet of paper into a boat. Next, I set it in a tub of water. However, one side sagged, so I folded it again. In the end, my boat floated across the tub.

For the marking job, accept words and phrases that show order, time, contrast, or cause, including "Next," "However," and "Because of this." Students should underline "The next day" and "On Wednesday" at the starts of paragraphs 2 and 3.