Back to the Steps

Trace how a story begins, moves forward, and returns.

C.3.3.b "Establish a situation, and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that reflects linear, nonlinear and/or circular structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the narrator's name and Ben's name, and underline the place where the story starts. Number these events in story order: Ben tries the pinwheel again, Nia lifts it, a gust carries it off.

The Blue Pinwheel

1. On Saturday morning, my little brother Ben and I sat on the front steps with a paper pinwheel. I am Nia, and I had made it from a square of blue paper. Ben held it up to catch the breeze. A strong gust tugged it from his hand. The pinwheel spun across the yard and slipped under the gate.

2. We ran to the gate, but the pinwheel had landed in a shallow puddle on the sidewalk. Ben reached for it and stopped. A small snail was resting beside its paper blades. I waited until the snail slid away. Then I lifted the pinwheel by its wooden stick. One blue corner was wet, but the pinwheel still turned.

3. Back in the yard, Ben found a dry cloth. I pressed the wet corner between its folds while Ben held the stick. When the paper felt dry, he tried the pinwheel again. It spun with a soft whir. We sat on the front steps, the same place our morning began. This time, Ben held the stick tightly, and we watched the blue blades turn.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who tells the story, and who is with her when it begins?

2. Where does the story begin, and what problem starts the action?

3. What does Nia do before lifting the pinwheel? What does she do with its wet corner afterward?

4. How does the ending return to the beginning, and what has changed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write six sentences about you and one other person. Start at a place, tell three actions in order, then return to that place with something changed.

ANSWER KEY

Back to the Steps

GRADE 3 · C.3.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the narrator's name and Ben's name, and underline the place where the story starts. Number these events in story order: Ben tries the pinwheel again, Nia lifts it, a gust carries it off. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who tells the story, and who is with her when it begins?	**Nia tells the story. Her little brother Ben is with her.**
2	Where does the story begin, and what problem starts the action?	**It begins on the front steps. A gust blows the pinwheel out of Ben's hand and under the gate.**
3	What does Nia do before lifting the pinwheel? What does she do with its wet corner afterward?	**She waits for the snail to slide away. After lifting the pinwheel, she presses its wet corner in a dry cloth.**
4	How does the ending return to the beginning, and what has changed?	**Nia and Ben return to the front steps with the pinwheel. Its corner is dry, and Ben holds its stick tightly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am Leo, and my friend Ada and I were at the kitchen table making a paper crown. A breeze from the open window blew our crown onto the floor. Ada picked it up, but one point had bent. I folded the point back while Ada held the crown steady. Then we taped the fold so it would stay straight. Back at the kitchen table, Ada put on our fixed crown and smiled.

For the markings, look for Nia and Ben circled, front steps underlined, and the gust, Nia's lift, and Ben's final try numbered 1, 2, and 3. For the story, accept any clear sequence that names both people, returns to its starting place, and shows a change.