Back to the Bell

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

C.4.3.b "Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that reflects linear, nonlinear or circular structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that tell who, where, and when the story begins and what problem starts it; then number three actions in time order and circle a detail repeated near the beginning and end.

No Rolls Yet

1. The bell above the bakery door jingled as I stepped inside with my cousin Nia. It was Saturday morning, and rain dripped from our coats onto the mat. We had promised to bring warm rolls to the people at the neighborhood shelter, but the bakery's oven had stopped working. Mr. Lee, the baker, held up a tray of pale, sticky dough. “No rolls yet,” he said.

2. Nia spotted a bag of flour by the door, but flour could not fix an oven. “What if we bring something that does not need baking?” she asked. Mr. Lee showed us a basket of apples and a box of crackers. Together we washed the apples, sliced them, and packed the slices with crackers in paper bags.

3. At the shelter, our neighbor Ms. Ortiz opened the door and helped us set out the bags. The children grabbed snacks while rain tapped on the windows. On our way home, Nia and I stopped at the bakery to tell Mr. Lee everyone had eaten. The bell above the bakery door jingled again. This time, Mr. Lee smiled and waved.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What details in the first paragraph tell who is telling the story, where it begins, and when it happens?

2. What problem does the opening give the narrator and Nia, and why does it matter?

3. Which happens first, next, and last: packing a different snack, taking it to the shelter, or returning to the bakery?

4. What detail repeats near the start and end? What has changed by the time it repeats?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a story scene of five to seven sentences about a small plan that goes wrong and gets solved. Introduce a narrator or character, tell where and when it begins, show events in order, and return to the starting place or a starting detail at the end.

ANSWER KEY

Back to the Bell

GRADE 4 · C.4.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues that tell who, where, and when the story begins and what problem starts it; then number three actions in time order and circle a detail repeated near the beginning and end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details in the first paragraph tell who is telling the story, where it begins, and when it happens?	**The narrator says "I" and is with cousin Nia. The story begins at a bakery on a rainy Saturday morning.**
2	What problem does the opening give the narrator and Nia, and why does it matter?	**The bakery oven has stopped working, so they cannot bring warm rolls to the people at the shelter as promised.**
3	Which happens first, next, and last: packing a different snack, taking it to the shelter, or returning to the bakery?	**First they pack apples and crackers. Next they take the bags to the shelter. Last they return to the bakery.**
4	What detail repeats near the start and end? What has changed by the time it repeats?	**The bell above the bakery door jingles both times. By the second time, the children have delivered food, and Mr. Lee smiles.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, I waited with my brother at the bus stop under a bright red sign. We planned to take our kite to the park, but its string snapped before the bus arrived. My brother found a spare shoelace in his backpack. We tied it to the kite and rode to the park. After flying the kite, we came back to the red sign to catch our bus home. This time, the kite stayed safely tucked under my arm.

For the marking job, accept any three correctly numbered actions that follow the passage's order. For the writing task, look for an opening that establishes who, where, and when, followed by an ordered problem and solution and a return to the opening place or detail.