Trail Story Clues

Sort the details that move a story or bring it to life.

C.5.3 "Compose narratives, using writing and digital resources, to develop real or imagined experiences or multiple events or ideas, using effective technique, descriptive details and clear sequences..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ORDER SIGNAL

An order signal helps readers follow when events happen. It may show that an event happens earlier, later, or at the same time as another event.

Meanwhile, Tessa stacked blue tiles.

SENSORY DETAIL

A sensory detail helps readers imagine what a character sees, hears, smells, tastes, or feels.

A pebble felt rough against Omar's palm.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle ORDER or SENSES for each sentence; for Part 2, choose one item from each group and explain the clue that helped you sort it.

1. First, Nia unfolded the trail map. ORDER SENSES

2. Next, Nia called to her friends. ORDER SENSES

3. Wet grass tickled Nia's ankles. ORDER SENSES

4. Later, the group crossed a wooden bridge. ORDER SENSES

5. A woodpecker tapped loudly overhead. ORDER SENSES

6. Pine needles smelled sharp in the shade. ORDER SENSES

7. After lunch, they followed a narrow path. ORDER SENSES

8. Finally, they reached the campsite. ORDER SENSES

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new story sentence with an ORDER signal and one new story sentence with a SENSES detail.

ORDER _____

SENSES _____

CHALLENGE

Write two connected sentences about one event: use an order signal in one sentence and a sensory detail in the other.

ANSWER KEY

Trail Story Clues

GRADE 5 · C.5.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	First, Nia unfolded the trail map.	**ORDER**	First places this event at the start of the sequence.
2	Next, Nia called to her friends.	**ORDER**	Next shows that this event follows another.
3	Wet grass tickled Nia's ankles.	**SENSES**	Tickled describes what Nia feels.
4	Later, the group crossed a wooden bridge.	**ORDER**	Later places this event after earlier events.
5	A woodpecker tapped loudly overhead.	**SENSES**	Tapped loudly describes a sound.
6	Pine needles smelled sharp in the shade.	**SENSES**	Smelled sharp describes a scent.
7	After lunch, they followed a narrow path.	**ORDER**	After lunch tells when this event happens.
8	Finally, they reached the campsite.	**ORDER**	Finally places this event at the end of the sequence.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ORDER**: Soon, Dax climbed the hill.
- **SENSES**: Cold rain stung Mira's cheeks.

Challenge: A sharp, smoky smell drifted through the hall. Then Amir opened the door.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are ORDER; items 3, 5, and 6 are SENSES. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a time clue for ORDER and a specific sense for SENSES.