The Seed Swap

Notice how a story begins and how each event leads to the next.

C.6.3.b "Engage the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that show where and when the story begins, circle the first mention of the narrator and Mira, and number three events that move the story from trouble to a solution.

The Sunflower Packet

1. On Saturday morning, I helped my cousin Mira set up a seed swap outside the neighborhood library. People would bring extra seeds and choose new ones to grow. Mira lined up packets on a folding table while I wrote plant names on paper signs. By ten o'clock, neighbors were arriving with jars and envelopes. Then a gust lifted the corner of our tablecloth. Three packets skidded across the pavement, and one slid under the library's locked side gate. Mira glanced at the dark clouds gathering over the roof.

2. We could not leave the packet there because it held the last sunflower seeds, and rain would soak its paper cover. I tried reaching through the gate, but my arm was too short. Mira spotted a long cardboard tube beside the recycling bin and pushed it toward me. I used the tube to nudge the packet back through the bars. Just as I caught it, the first drops struck the table. The neighbors grabbed their jars while Mira and I folded the table and carried everything inside.

3. The librarian, Mr. Chen, cleared a corner near the windows for our table. We spread the damp cloth over a chair and arranged the dry packets in small boxes so another gust could not scatter them. A neighbor who had brought bean seeds found the sunflower packet and traded for it. When she left, she held it safely inside her coat. Mira taped a new sign to the table: SEED SWAP, NOW INDOORS. Outside, rain rattled against the glass, but people kept coming through the front doors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the opening help you understand why the narrator and Mira are outside the library?

2. What event interrupts the setup, and what detail makes the problem urgent?

3. Why does Mira find a cardboard tube before they move the swap indoors?

4. How does the ending show that the characters solved the problems caused by the gust and rain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of five or six sentences about a narrator and another character preparing for a school event when something unexpected happens. Show where and when the story begins, then tell three connected events that lead to a solution.

ANSWER KEY

The Seed Swap

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show where and when the story begins, circle the first mention of the narrator and Mira, and number three events that move the story from trouble to a solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening help you understand why the narrator and Mira are outside the library?	**It establishes that they are setting up a seed swap where neighbors can trade seeds.**
2	What event interrupts the setup, and what detail makes the problem urgent?	**A gust blows a packet under a locked gate. Dark clouds signal rain that could soak the packet.**
3	Why does Mira find a cardboard tube before they move the swap indoors?	**The narrator cannot reach the packet through the gate, so they use the tube to get it back before the rain.**
4	How does the ending show that the characters solved the problems caused by the gust and rain?	**They retrieve the sunflower packet, and the swap continues safely indoors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Friday afternoon, I helped my friend Jada hang posters for the school talent show in the hallway. We had taped up the last poster when a draft from an open door sent it sliding across the floor. Jada chased it, but someone stepped on the corner and tore it. Since the show started soon, I found a blank sheet in my backpack while Jada borrowed a marker. We made a smaller sign and taped it beside the auditorium doors. Students followed our new sign and found their seats before the first act.

For the marking job, accept any three numbered events that form a logical path from the blown packet to the indoor swap. For the writing task, look for a clear setting and characters, connected events, and a resolution.