Seeds on the Move

Trace how transitions guide a story through time and place.

C.6.3.d "Use a variety of transition words to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that show when events happen, and circle words or phrases that move the story to a different place. If a phrase does both, underline and circle it.

A Packet's Journey

1 On Saturday morning, I found a paper packet of sunflower seeds behind the flour jar. Grandma had saved them from last year's flowers, but the packet had a tear. First, I folded a new envelope from scrap paper. Next, Grandma wrote the year she collected the seeds on its front while I counted them into a bowl. At noon, we carried the envelope across the street to the library's seed swap. I expected a quiet table with a few packets. Instead, a line of neighbors stretched past the front door.

2 Inside the library, a volunteer was arranging packets of beans and marigolds beside our envelope. Meanwhile, Grandma examined a chart of plants that grow well in our area. Soon afterward, a boy named Theo asked whether sunflowers could grow in a pot. The volunteer explained that some shorter varieties could, then helped him read our packet. Before we left, Theo chose a few seeds, and we picked up a packet of basil. Back at our apartment that evening, Grandma placed the basil packet on the windowsill so we would remember it.

3 The following morning, we took the basil seeds to the community garden. First, Grandma pressed small holes into the soil of an empty planter. After that, I dropped one seed into each hole and covered it gently. Across the path, Theo was helping his father fill a pot with soil. He held up the sunflower envelope so I could see it. Finally, we watered our planter and walked home. A week later, tiny green leaves appeared in our planter, and Theo sent us a drawing of his first sunflower sprout.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does “At noon” tell you about the library trip compared with making the envelope?

2. Which word shows that Grandma examined the chart while the volunteer was arranging packets?

3. Which phrase moves the story from the library to the apartment? What time does it signal?

4. Which phrases move the story to the next day and then forward another week?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence scene about preparing for a neighborhood event in two different places on two different days. Use at least four different transition words or phrases to show the order of events and signal the changes in day and setting.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds on the Move

GRADE 6 · C.6.3.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show when events happen, and circle words or phrases that move the story to a different place. If a phrase does both, underline and circle it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does "At noon" tell you about the library trip compared with making the envelope?	**The library trip happened later that same day, after the envelope was made.**
2	Which word shows that Grandma examined the chart while the volunteer was arranging packets?	**Meanwhile.**
3	Which phrase moves the story from the library to the apartment? What time does it signal?	**"Back at our apartment that evening" signals a move to the apartment later that day.**
4	Which phrases move the story to the next day and then forward another week?	**"The following morning" moves to the next day, and "A week later" moves ahead another week.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Friday afternoon, I made signs for the neighborhood book sale at our kitchen table. First, I sorted the books into piles for younger and older readers. Later, I carried the signs to the community center. Inside the main room, my brother taped each sign above the right table. The next morning, we returned to the center and set out the books. Finally, the doors opened, and our first visitor chose a mystery.

For the marking job, accept time phrases such as "At noon" and "A week later," and setting phrases such as "Inside the library." Students may both underline and circle "Back at our apartment that evening" because it signals a change in place and time.