The Missing Note

Trace how a story moves through time and place.

C.7.3.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 the order of events. Circle words or phrases that move the story to a different time or place.

One Sound Missing

1 At eight o'clock, the school hallway smelled of wet coats. Maya carried a shoebox of sound-making objects into the music room. First, she tapped two smooth stones together to imitate footsteps on a path. Next, she shook dry beans in a jar for the sound of rain. But when she reached for the tiny bell that would end her recording, its spot in the box was empty. For a moment, she stared at the empty corner. Then she searched beneath the piano bench, hoping it had slipped out.

2 The night before, in her grandmother's kitchen, Maya had tested each sound while Grandma washed dishes. After the stones and beans, she had rung the bell over the sink. Its clear note had made Grandma laugh. Later, as Maya packed the box, the doorbell rang, and she hurried to greet a neighbor. She had left the tiny bell beside the dish rack. Back in the music room, Maya pictured that spot and realized why her search under the piano bench would never work.

3 After school, Maya walked to Grandma's house and found the bell exactly where she had imagined it, beside the dish rack. That evening, at home, she wrote a new plan for her recording so she would not have to rush. The next morning, back in the music room, she placed the bell in front of the microphone. First came the stones, then the beans. Finally, she rang the bell once and let its note fade. The recording sounded like a traveler reaching shelter just as a storm ended.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two words show the order of Maya's first two sound tests? Which sound comes first?

2. What time and place does "The night before, in her grandmother's kitchen" move the story to?

3. After Maya remembers testing the sounds, what shift does "Back in the music room" signal?

4. Which phrase moves the story from Maya's evening at home to the following day? Where is Maya then?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of five to six sentences about someone completing a small project in two different places. Use at least three different transition words or phrases to show the order of actions, including one that clearly shifts to a new time and place.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Note

GRADE 7 · C.7.3.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show the order of events. Circle words or phrases that move the story to a different time or place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two words show the order of Maya's first two sound tests? Which sound comes first?	**"First" and "Next" show the order. The stones come first.**
2	What time and place does "The night before, in her grandmother's kitchen" move the story to?	**It moves the story to the previous night in Grandma's kitchen.**
3	After Maya remembers testing the sounds, what shift does "Back in the music room" signal?	**It returns the story from the memory in Grandma's kitchen to Maya's search at school.**
4	Which phrase moves the story from Maya's evening at home to the following day? Where is Maya then?	**"The next morning, back in the music room" moves the story to the following day at school.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday morning, I sketched a kite at my kitchen table. First, I cut a diamond from thin paper. Next, I tied two wooden sticks into a frame. Later that afternoon, at the park, I fastened the paper to the frame and added a long tail. Afterward, I tested the kite in the wind. Finally, it rose above the trees.

For the marking job, accept sequence markers such as "First," "Next," and "Then," and shifts such as "The night before" and "Back in the music room." In the original paragraph, look for three distinct transitions and a clear move to a new time and place.