The Patched Kite

Trace how a small setback becomes a complete story.

C.7.3 "Compose narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or multiple events, memories or ideas using effective technique, relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two phrases that move the story to a new time and place, underline one line of dialogue, and number three key events in the order they happen. Use your marks to track how the story unfolds.

A Patch in the Sky

1 On Saturday morning, I carried my red kite to the hill behind our apartment. My cousin Lena held the spool while I ran, and the paper sail snapped open above us. Then a gust shoved the kite sideways. Its string slipped across my palm, and the kite fell into a thornbush. When we pulled it free, the thin wooden crossbar hung in two pieces. Lena stared at the tear near its center. "We should throw it away," she said. I folded the torn paper against the frame and shook my head.

2 An hour later, at our kitchen table, Lena and I spread the kite beside Grandma's sewing tin. Grandma found a slender wooden stick in a drawer. "First, measure it against the broken crossbar," she said. I cut the stick to match while Lena held the frame still. We taped the new piece into place, but the paper sagged around the tear. I wanted to rush back outside. Instead, I brushed glue along the edges and pressed a square of wrapping paper over the gap. We waited for the glue to dry.

3 By sunset, back on the hill, the wind had softened. Lena lifted the kite while I stepped backward, letting out a little string at a time. "Now!" she called. I ran, and the repaired sail fluttered, dipped, then climbed. For a moment I watched the patched square glow against the orange sky. Lena took the spool, and we passed it between us until the streetlights blinked on. I had wanted the kite to look new again. Instead, its bright patch reminded me that fixing something together could be better than starting over.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two phrases move the story to a new time and place? Name the time and place each phrase introduces.

2. What does Lena's first line of dialogue show about her reaction to the broken kite? How does the narrator respond?

3. The narrator describes several steps in repairing the kite but uses only a few quick verbs for its flight. How does this change in pacing affect the final scene?

4. How does the final thought about the bright patch connect to what happened earlier in the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six- to eight-sentence scene about a different small setback and what happens next. Establish who is there and where they are, include dialogue and a phrase that shifts the time or place, use a sensory detail, and end with a reflection that grows from the events.

ANSWER KEY

The Patched Kite

GRADE 7 · C.7.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the two phrases that move the story to a new time and place, underline one line of dialogue, and number three key events in the order they happen. Use your marks to track how the story unfolds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two phrases move the story to a new time and place? Name the time and place each phrase introduces.	**"An hour later, at our kitchen table" moves the story to the kitchen an hour after the kite breaks. "By sunset, back on the hill" moves it back to the hill later that day.**
2	What does Lena's first line of dialogue show about her reaction to the broken kite? How does the narrator respond?	**Lena thinks the kite cannot be saved and wants to throw it away. The narrator shakes their head instead.**
3	The narrator describes several steps in repairing the kite but uses only a few quick verbs for its flight. How does this change in pacing affect the final scene?	**The repair steps slow the story so readers see the careful work. "Fluttered, dipped, then climbed" makes the successful flight feel quick and exciting.**
4	How does the final thought about the bright patch connect to what happened earlier in the story?	**The narrator first wanted the kite to look new. After repairing and flying it with Lena, the patch reminds the narrator that working together mattered more.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday, I carried my science poster into the noisy school hallway, where Eli waited by the display tables. A corner caught on a door handle and ripped through the title. "We still have ten minutes," Eli said, pulling a marker from his bag. In the library, we trimmed the ragged edge and wrote a new title on blue paper. When we returned to the hallway, my hands shook as I pinned the poster to the board. The judges stopped to read it, and Eli gave me a small nod. I learned that a mistake did not have to end our work.

For the marking job, accept the kite breaking, the repair, and the successful flight as the three key events. The opening phrase "On Saturday morning" establishes the initial time, so it does not count as a shift.