The Sign Returns

Trace how transitions guide a story through time and place.

C.8.3.d "Use a variety of transitions to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another and show the relationships among experiences and events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that move the story to another time or place, and circle words that show how actions connect, such as overlap or contrast.

Everyone Can Grow Here

1 On Friday afternoon, I found our garden sign face down in the mud. Rain had loosened its wooden posts, and the painted words, EVERYONE CAN GROW HERE, were hidden under wet leaves. A month earlier, our class had designed the sign at the library after neighbors asked for a way to welcome new gardeners. Back then, we argued over colors and letter sizes, certain our hardest task was making the words easy to read. Seeing the sign on the ground, I realized that building something was only the beginning.

2 By Saturday morning, I was at my grandfather's workshop, holding the damaged post steady while he removed its bent screws. Meanwhile, across town, my friend Lena cleared leaves from the garden path so we could carry in new supplies. Once the old screws were out, Grandpa showed me how to seal the wood against water. Instead of painting over the muddy letters, I scrubbed the sign until its message appeared again. The repair took longer than I expected; however, each careful step made the sign sturdier than before.

3 That evening, Lena brought the sign to my porch, where we painted a bright border around its cleaned letters. Although we wanted to put it back right away, the paint needed time to dry. Two days later, our class returned to the garden and set the posts in firm soil. As we pressed dirt around them, a new neighbor stopped to read the sign and asked where to find a plot. Now, whenever I pass the garden, I think of that question: the sign worked because someone felt invited to join.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change in time and setting does “A month earlier” introduce?

2. What does “Meanwhile, across town” tell you about Lena's work and the work at the workshop?

3. How does “Instead of” show the narrator's choice about the muddy letters?

4. How do “Although” and “Two days later” help explain when the class put the sign back?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence scene about repairing or returning something after a setback. Use three different transitions: one that moves to an earlier time, one that moves to a new setting, and one that shows how two events are connected.

ANSWER KEY

The Sign Returns

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that move the story to another time or place, and circle words that show how actions connect, such as overlap or contrast. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change in time and setting does "A month earlier" introduce?	**It moves from the damaged sign on Friday to the class designing the sign at the library a month before.**
2	What does "Meanwhile, across town" tell you about Lena's work and the work at the workshop?	**Lena was clearing the garden path at about the same time the narrator and Grandpa were repairing the post at the workshop.**
3	How does "Instead of" show the narrator's choice about the muddy letters?	**It contrasts painting over the muddy letters with scrubbing the sign to uncover its original message.**
4	How do "Although" and "Two days later" help explain when the class put the sign back?	**"Although" shows they wanted to put it back immediately but had to let the paint dry. "Two days later" moves the story to when they returned it to the garden.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I found my brother's kite tangled in a fence on Sunday. The week before, we had built it at our kitchen table from paper and thin sticks. Across the street, my brother searched the park for its missing tail. Because the paper was torn, I patched it with tape before he returned. That afternoon, we tested the kite in an open field, and it lifted into the wind.

Accept other passage-based explanations that correctly identify the time shift, setting shift, or relationship signaled by each transition. For the writing task, look for five or six sentences and three distinct transitions serving the requested purposes.