Clues Change Course

Trace how each part moves a story forward

RL.3.5 "Describe the structure and provide evidence of how the parts of the text contribute to the whole in a story, poem or drama (e.g., how a chapter, stanza or act/scene might build on another part of the text)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, then underline one detail in each that shows how the hunt moves from a problem to a solution.

The Washed-Away Trail

1. On Friday, Nia planned a treasure hunt for her class. She drew chalk arrows across the playground. The last arrow led back inside to a tin of paper stars in her desk. At recess, rain began to fall. The arrows washed away before anyone could follow them. Nia watched from the window as her classmates gathered around her. How could the hunt work without a trail?

2. Then Nia spotted a stack of scrap paper beside the art supplies. She wrote a clue that sent the class to the reading corner. There, she hid another clue under a chair. Each clue pointed to a new place inside the room. Soon the class was moving from the reading corner to the plant shelf, then toward the coat hooks. Nia kept the tin hidden.

3. At the coat hooks, Mateo found a note that said, 'Look where pencils wait.' Everyone hurried to the supply cup, but no stars were there. Nia had tucked the last clue behind it. That clue led to her desk, where the tin of paper stars was waiting. Each child chose a star. Nia looked at the wet playground and smiled. The rain had changed the trail, not the hunt.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does paragraph 1 set up the problem that Nia works on in paragraph 2? Use a detail from each paragraph.

2. How does the scrap paper in paragraph 2 help move the hunt forward after the rain?

3. How does paragraph 2 prepare you for what happens at the start of paragraph 3?

4. How does paragraph 3 finish the hunt that began in paragraph 1? Use a detail from both paragraphs.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the reading corner is closed. Write three sentences to replace the middle of the story: give the class a new clue path to the coat hooks, then explain how your change lets the ending still happen.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · RL.3.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, then underline one detail in each that shows how the hunt moves from a problem to a solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 set up the problem that Nia works on in paragraph 2? Use a detail from each paragraph.	**In paragraph 1, rain washes away Nia's chalk arrows. In paragraph 2, she makes paper clues so the class can follow a trail indoors.**
2	How does the scrap paper in paragraph 2 help move the hunt forward after the rain?	**Nia uses the scrap paper to write clues that replace the washed-away arrows.**
3	How does paragraph 2 prepare you for what happens at the start of paragraph 3?	**Paragraph 2 sends the class toward the coat hooks. At the start of paragraph 3, Mateo finds a note there.**
4	How does paragraph 3 finish the hunt that began in paragraph 1? Use a detail from both paragraphs.	**Paragraph 1 says the treasure is a tin of paper stars in Nia's desk. In paragraph 3, the last clue leads the class to her desk, and each child gets a star.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nia changes her first clue to send the class to the plant shelf. At the plant shelf, she hides a clue that points to the coat hooks. This new path lets Mateo find the note at the coat hooks and follow the clues to the stars.

Accept different details if students explain how one paragraph leads to another. For Part 3, the new path must skip the reading corner, reach the coat hooks, and connect to the story's ending.