Dragon in Reverse

Notice how a story's order shapes what you wonder.

RL.4.5 "Analyze the structure the author uses in a story, poem or drama, considering how the parts of the text contribute to the whole."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the story, then circle the words that show when the story moves back in time and when it returns to the art show. Underline the question in the first paragraph that makes you want to read on.

The Green Stripe

1. At the school art show, a red paper dragon hung from the ceiling. Its crooked tail was patched with bright green tape. Jalen stared up at it, hardly believing anyone had put it there. That morning, he had stuffed the dragon into his backpack, sure it was ruined. Now visitors pointed at it and smiled. How had his broken dragon reached the ceiling?

2. Earlier that day, Jalen had carried his dragon to class for the art show. On the way, a gust blew the dragon against a fence and tore its tail. Jalen tried to hide it, but his friend Sal noticed the rip. Sal offered a strip of green tape from her pencil case. Together, they made the patch look like a bright new stripe.

3. Back at the art show, Jalen spotted Sal beneath the dragon. She had asked their teacher to hang it where everyone could see the green stripe. A visitor said the patch made the dragon look ready for an adventure. Jalen still saw the torn edge, but he also saw what he and Sal had made together. He smiled and waved Sal over to stand beside him.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the first paragraph show before explaining how the dragon got there? How does that opening make you want to read on?

2. The second paragraph moves back in time. What does it explain that the first paragraph leaves unanswered?

3. Why does the story return to the art show in the last paragraph?

4. How would the story feel different if the second paragraph came first?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence story about a lost item being found. Start with the item already found, use the next two sentences to go back and show the search, return to the moment it was found in sentence four, and explain in sentence five how your opening affects the reader.

ANSWER KEY

Dragon in Reverse

GRADE 4 · RL.4.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the story, then circle the words that show when the story moves back in time and when it returns to the art show. Underline the question in the first paragraph that makes you want to read on. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the first paragraph show before explaining how the dragon got there? How does that opening make you want to read on?	**It shows the patched dragon hanging at the art show. Readers may want to find out how a dragon Jalen thought was ruined got there.**
2	The second paragraph moves back in time. What does it explain that the first paragraph leaves unanswered?	**It explains how the tail tore and how Sal helped Jalen patch it with green tape.**
3	Why does the story return to the art show in the last paragraph?	**Returning to the show reveals that Sal asked the teacher to hang the dragon and shows Jalen seeing the patch in a new way.**
4	How would the story feel different if the second paragraph came first?	**Readers would know about the torn tail and the patch before seeing the dragon on display, so the opening would have less mystery.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My missing whistle sat on the coach's desk, but I did not know how it got there. Earlier, I had searched the field and looked beneath every bench. Then I shook the ball bag and heard something rattle inside. Back at the desk, I learned that the coach had found my whistle in the bag. Starting with the whistle on the desk makes the reader wonder how it was found.

For the marking job, accept the time clues "That morning," "Earlier that day," and "Back at the art show," along with the final question in paragraph one. In Part 3, accept any clear five-sentence story that follows the requested time order and explains the opening's effect.