Behind the Curtain

Read one moment through two narrators.

RL.4.6 "Compare and contrast the point of view of first and third person narrators and the effect they have on the reader."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two words in paragraph 1 that show the narrator is part of the story. Underline two sentences in paragraphs 2 and 3 that tell you something Eli did not know in paragraph 1.

The Fox Puppet

1. I had one minute before the class play began, and the fox puppet was gone. I was supposed to make it peek out from a paper tree. Nia glanced at the floor, then hurried behind the curtain. I thought she was leaving me to fix the mess alone. My cheeks grew hot. How could I tell everyone we had no fox?

2. Eli did not see what Nia saw. A tuft of orange cloth stuck out from under a folding chair behind the curtain. Nia hurried over, but her shoe caught on a box of paper trees. She steadied the box before it fell. Eli watched her disappear and mistook her quick steps for a trip away from the play. Nia wanted to help.

3. When Nia returned with the fox puppet, Eli let out a breath. Nia brushed a scrap of tape from its tail and handed it to him. Eli still felt embarrassed about doubting her, but Nia was busy checking the puppet's loose ear. From the audience, no one could see the trouble behind the curtain. The play began with a fox peeking out from a paper tree.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which paragraph has a first-person narrator? How does hearing from Eli directly help you understand his worry?

2. How is the narrator in paragraph 2 different? Name one thing this narrator tells you that Eli does not know yet.

3. What does Eli think Nia is doing in paragraph 1? How does paragraph 2 change your view of her quick steps?

4. In paragraph 3, how does the third-person narrator help you understand Eli's reaction to Nia's return?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new moment when one character misunderstands another. Use two sentences with "I" to tell what the first character thinks, then two sentences with a third-person narrator to show what the other character is really doing.

ANSWER KEY

Behind the Curtain

GRADE 4 · RL.4.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two words in paragraph 1 that show the narrator is part of the story. Underline two sentences in paragraphs 2 and 3 that tell you something Eli did not know in paragraph 1. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which paragraph has a first-person narrator? How does hearing from Eli directly help you understand his worry?	**Paragraph 1. Eli says "I" and describes his hot cheeks and fear about the missing puppet, so readers feel close to his worry.**
2	How is the narrator in paragraph 2 different? Name one thing this narrator tells you that Eli does not know yet.	**The narrator speaks about Eli and Nia as "he" and "she." This narrator knows Nia saw the puppet under a chair.**
3	What does Eli think Nia is doing in paragraph 1? How does paragraph 2 change your view of her quick steps?	**Eli thinks Nia is leaving him to solve the problem alone. Paragraph 2 shows she is hurrying to get the puppet.**
4	In paragraph 3, how does the third-person narrator help you understand Eli's reaction to Nia's return?	**The narrator says Eli feels embarrassed about doubting Nia. Readers can tell he now knows he was wrong about her.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I saw Max lift my lunch box, and I thought he wanted my food. I folded my arms as he carried it across the yard. Lena did not see the sprinkler turn toward the bench where her lunch box had been. Max set it on a dry table before the water reached it.

For the marking job, accept "I" and "my" in paragraph 1, plus sentences about the puppet under the chair or Nia wanting to help. For Your Turn, look for two first-person sentences followed by two third-person sentences that reveal why the first character's guess was wrong.