Stories in Motion

Compare how three stories arrange events.

RL.5.5 "Compare and contrast the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts or information in two or more literary texts (e.g., stories, poems or dramas)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read each story, number three events in the order the story tells them, and circle words that show a jump back in time or a new day.

Three Small Stories

1. **The Kite String.** On Saturday morning, Nia carried her new kite to the park. A strong gust snapped its string, and the kite landed in a low tree. Nia tried jumping, but the branch was too high. She borrowed a long broom from the park keeper and gently lifted the kite free. By lunchtime, her kite was flying again, this time with a stronger string.

2. **The Lost Ticket.** At last, Leo stepped onto the train with his ticket in hand. An hour earlier, the ticket had slipped from his pocket at the station. He checked beneath the bench, then asked the station worker for help. She spotted a blue corner sticking out of a trash can. Leo pulled out the ticket just as the train arrived. He was still smiling when he found his seat.

3. **The Window Garden.** Every morning, Mira checked the seed pot on her windowsill. On Monday, she saw only dirt and added water. On Tuesday, she saw only dirt and moved the pot closer to the light. On Wednesday, she saw only dirt and waited. On Thursday, a green shoot pushed through the soil. Mira called her brother over, and they watched the tiny leaves open.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the openings of “The Kite String” and “The Lost Ticket” begin at different points in their events?

2. What words send “The Lost Ticket” back to an earlier event? How does its ending connect to its opening?

3. How is the path to a result different in “The Window Garden” and “The Kite String”?

4. Which story covers the most time? Compare its time clues with those in the other two stories.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence story about finding something lost. Begin with the find, then go back to show how it was lost and found. In your last two sentences, compare your event order with two stories above.

ANSWER KEY

Stories in Motion

GRADE 5 · RL.5.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read each story, number three events in the order the story tells them, and circle words that show a jump back in time or a new day. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the openings of "The Kite String" and "The Lost Ticket" begin at different points in their events?	**Nia's story begins before her kite gets stuck. Leo's begins after his ticket has been lost and found.**
2	What words send "The Lost Ticket" back to an earlier event? How does its ending connect to its opening?	**"An hour earlier" sends the story back. Leo boards the train at the opening and finds his seat at the end.**
3	How is the path to a result different in "The Window Garden" and "The Kite String"?	**Mira checks the pot over several days before a shoot appears. Nia tries jumping, then frees her kite with a broom on the same day.**
4	Which story covers the most time? Compare its time clues with those in the other two stories.	**"The Window Garden" covers Monday through Thursday. "The Kite String" goes from morning to lunchtime, while "The Lost Ticket" goes back one hour.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My lost red mitten was back in my pocket by sunset. That morning, I had dropped it while carrying firewood. After lunch, I followed my footprints through the snow and spotted a flash of red inside a hollow log. I reached in and carried the mitten home. Unlike "The Kite String," my story starts after the problem is solved. Unlike "The Window Garden," my story jumps backward instead of moving through several days.

Accept different event choices for the marking job if students number them in the order told. For the open task, look for six sentences, a clear jump back from the opening, and accurate comparisons with two stories.