Two Moons

Trace how a change in plans shapes a story.

RL.6.5 "Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, scene or stanza fits into the overall structure of the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1 to 3 to track the story's beginning, middle, and ending. Underline the sentence that turns the planned show into a problem, and circle the sentence that connects the ending to the beginning.

The Moon That Fell

1. On Friday afternoon, Mira carried a cardboard moon into the school gym. Her class had built a tiny stage for the neighborhood puppet show, and Mira's job was to raise the moon during the final scene. She had painted silver craters on it all week. Behind the curtain, her friend Leo checked the strings while their teacher arranged folding chairs. Mira practiced lifting the moon until it floated just above the paper rooftops. When the first families arrived, she whispered, "Nothing can go wrong now."

2. Then a gust from the open gym door snapped the string holding the moon. The moon slid behind the stage, too far for Mira to reach without stepping in front of the crowd. Leo offered to pause the show, but the puppets were already telling their final story. Mira noticed the flashlight her teacher used to check the seats. She grabbed a spare paper plate, held it in front of the flashlight, and aimed its shadow at the curtain. A dark moon rose above the paper rooftops, larger than the one they had built.

3. At first, Mira worried that everyone would see the trick. Instead, a little boy pointed at the shadow and gasped. Leo moved the rooftop puppets closer to it, and their shapes grew tall across the curtain. Other children leaned forward as if the night sky might spill into their laps. After the show, Mira pulled the fallen cardboard moon from behind the stage. Its silver paint was still smooth, but she no longer wanted to hide the paper plate. She tucked both moons into the same box for next week's show.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does paragraph 1 prepare you for the snapped string in paragraph 2?

2. What does the first sentence of paragraph 2 change about the story's direction?

3. Why does paragraph 2 end with the dark moon rising instead of ending when the string snaps?

4. How does the last sentence of paragraph 3 connect to the beginning and show a change in Mira?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence story in which the second sentence changes a character's plan and the third shows what happens next. Then write two sentences explaining how your second and third sentences shape the story.

ANSWER KEY # Two Moons

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1 to 3 to track the story's beginning, middle, and ending. Underline the sentence that turns the planned show into a problem, and circle the sentence that connects the ending to the beginning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 prepare you for the snapped string in paragraph 2?	**Paragraph 1 shows how carefully Mira prepared the moon and how sure she is that the show will go as planned. The snapped string interrupts that plan.**
2	What does the first sentence of paragraph 2 change about the story's direction?	**It turns the planned final scene into a problem: Mira can no longer raise the cardboard moon and must find another way to finish the show.**
3	Why does paragraph 2 end with the dark moon rising instead of ending when the string snaps?	**Ending with the shadow moon shows Mira's solution to the problem. It also sets up the audience's reaction in paragraph 3.**
4	How does the last sentence of paragraph 3 connect to the beginning and show a change in Mira?	**The box holds the original moon from the beginning and the plate Mira used for her new idea. Keeping both shows that she values the unplanned solution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tariq stacked three stones beside the creek to mark the path home. A sudden rush of water scattered the stones before his friends returned. He tied bright ribbons to nearby branches, and his friends followed them safely back. The second sentence breaks Tariq's plan and creates the problem. The third sentence shows his new solution and completes the story.

For the marking job, accept the first sentence of paragraph 2 as the turning point and the last sentence of paragraph 3 as the connection to the beginning. In Part 3, look for a clear change in the second story sentence and an explanation of how the third sentence follows it.