Saving the Banner

Read a model narrative, then write a short scene.

W.5.3 "Write narratives to recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that show when events happen, and circle one detail each that shows an action, a thought, and a feeling.

The Banner at the Fair

1. On Saturday morning, I helped my friend Tessa hang our class banner between two posts at the school fair. We had painted our class name above blue waves and stitched a yellow sun in one corner. The air smelled like popcorn, and the banner snapped in the breeze. As the first families entered, one string broke. The sun side sagged toward a puddle. "Catch it!" Tessa shouted.

2. I grabbed the loose corner, but the heavy cloth pulled hard against my hands. For a moment, I pictured our careful painting smeared with mud. Tessa searched her pocket for spare string while I held the banner above the water. Then a stronger gust yanked it sideways. My shoes scraped the pavement. "The hook!" I called, pointing to the hook on the post.

3. While I held the banner steady, Tessa tied the loose corner to the hook with her spare string. She tugged the knot twice. At last, the yellow sun rose beside the blue waves again, safely above the puddle. Relief loosened my shoulders. When the next families passed, Tessa and I stood back and watched them read our class name.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the opening tell you who is involved and where the story takes place?

2. Find a word or phrase that signals when the stronger gust arrives. What happens just before and just after it?

3. What does the narrator picture while holding the banner? What does that thought tell you?

4. How does the ending show that the problem is solved? Include one detail that shows how the narrator feels.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 6 to 8 sentences about a time you and someone else solved a small problem at a school event or another gathering. Introduce who and where, tell events in order with at least two different time words or phrases, and include dialogue, a sensory detail, your thought or feeling, and an ending that follows from what happened.

ANSWER KEY

Saving the Banner

GRADE 5 · W.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that show when events happen, and circle one detail each that shows an action, a thought, and a feeling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening tell you who is involved and where the story takes place?	**The narrator and Tessa are hanging their class banner at the school fair.**
2	Find a word or phrase that signals when the stronger gust arrives. What happens just before and just after it?	**"Then" signals the gust. Before it, the narrator holds the banner above the water while Tessa looks for string. After it, the banner yanks sideways and the narrator calls out about the hook.**
3	What does the narrator picture while holding the banner? What does that thought tell you?	**The narrator pictures the painting smeared with mud, which shows worry about the banner being ruined.**
4	How does the ending show that the problem is solved? Include one detail that shows how the narrator feels.	**Tessa ties the banner above the puddle, and families can read it. The narrator's shoulders loosen with relief.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our neighborhood picnic, I helped my cousin Maya set out cups beside the lemonade jug. Just as the first guests arrived, a gust blew the paper cups across the grass. "Grab the red one!" Maya called, chasing two toward the fence. I snatched three cups while the sharp smell of lemons drifted from the table. For a second, I worried we would run out before everyone got a drink. Then Maya found a heavy basket, and we put fresh cups inside it. By the time our neighbors lined up, the cups stayed put, and we could finally pour the lemonade.

Accept other accurate passage details that support each answer. For the writing task, look for a clear situation, a natural sequence, the requested narrative details, and a conclusion connected to the problem.