The Missing Moon

Notice how a narrator sets the scene and connects events.

W.6.3.a "Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that show when and where the story begins, and circle the words that show who tells it and who helps. Number the moments when the moon is lost, found, and repaired.

One Minute Before the Play

1 By six o'clock on Friday, the school gym smelled of popcorn and wet coats. I stood behind the curtain with Eli, holding the cardboard moon we had painted for the sixth-grade play. I was in charge of moving it across the stage during the final scene. When Mrs. Chen called for the actors to take their places, Eli opened the side door to let in a late performer. A cold gust shoved the moon from my hands. It slid under the curtain and vanished into the dark gym.

2 I could hear the audience settling into the bleachers, so I crouched and looked beneath the curtain. The moon was not there. Eli pointed to a silver trail of glitter across the floor. We followed it past the costume rack and found the moon wedged behind a stack of folded chairs. One edge had bent, and the string used to hang it had snapped. Mrs. Chen was already raising a hand to signal the start, but I asked her for one minute to fix it.

3 Eli held the bent edge flat while I pressed two strips of tape across the crease. Then we tied a new piece of string through the holes at the top. Mrs. Chen gave the signal, and the actors stepped onto the stage. I waited until the final scene, when the script called for night to fall. From behind the curtain, Eli and I lifted the moon into the light. Its taped edge flashed for a second, but the audience watched the actors, not our repair.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which opening details show when and where the story begins?

2. Who tells the story, and which word reveals that point of view?

3. What detail leads the characters from searching for the moon to finding it?

4. Why does replacing the string come before the moon appears in the final scene?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 5- to 7-sentence scene about a small problem during a class field trip. Show when and where it happens, tell it from one character's point of view, introduce another character, and make each event lead naturally to the next.

ANSWER KEY # The Missing Moon

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show when and where the story begins, and circle the words that show who tells it and who helps. Number the moments when the moon is lost, found, and repaired. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which opening details show when and where the story begins?	**It begins at six o'clock on Friday in the school gym, behind the curtain.**
2	Who tells the story, and which word reveals that point of view?	**The student holding the moon tells the story. The word "I" shows that the student is the narrator.**
3	What detail leads the characters from searching for the moon to finding it?	**Eli spots a silver trail of glitter. They follow it to the moon behind the folded chairs.**
4	Why does replacing the string come before the moon appears in the final scene?	**The old string snapped, so they need a new one to lift the moon into view.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon at the history museum, I reached into my bag for my sketchbook and found only a broken pencil. My partner, Sora, remembered that I had set the book on the bench near the model train. I told our teacher, who walked back with us to the exhibit. The sketchbook was gone from the bench, but Sora spotted its blue cover underneath. I pulled it free and found a dusty footprint across my drawing. When we rejoined the class, I used the smudge as smoke rising from the train.

Accept passage details that establish Friday evening and the school gym. For the writing task, look for a clear point of view, an introduced character, and events connected by cause and effect.