Room for Thunder

Trace how a story's ending grows from its events.

W.6.3.e "Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the final two sentences that show how the narrator changed. Circle two earlier moments that make this ending believable.

The Missing Thunder

1 On the afternoon of our school play, I guarded the sound table like a tiny castle. I had promised to make thunder when the storm scene began, so I had practiced rolling a wooden ball across a metal tray. My friend Luis offered to help, but I told him I knew every cue. When the lights dimmed, I set the tray beside my chair and watched the actors enter. Then someone backstage bumped the table. The ball rolled under the heavy curtain, out of reach.

2 The storm scene was seconds away. I dropped to my knees, but I could not see the ball in the dark. Luis crouched beside me and pointed to a large cardboard box used for props. "Tap the sides," he whispered. I tried, and the box made a thin patter, more like rain than thunder. Luis struck the bottom with his palm. A deep boom answered him. Together we made the rain grow louder until the actors hurried into their pretend shelter.

3 After the curtain call, I found the wooden ball beneath a pile of costumes. I started to apologize to our teacher, but she said the storm had sounded as if it were moving closer. Luis grinned and tapped the box one last time. I had spent all week trying to control every sound by myself. That afternoon, I learned that listening to someone else could make the story stronger. I put the ball back in its tin, but next time I ran sound, I left room at the table for a partner.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change does the narrator describe in the final two sentences?

2. Which two actions during the storm scene make the narrator's conclusion believable?

3. Why would "I decided to handle every sound alone next time" not fit as an ending?

4. How does leaving room at the sound table connect to the way the narrator guarded it at the start?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence true or invented story about a time a plan changed. Use the first three sentences to show what happened, then end with two sentences that show the result and reflect on what the experience taught your narrator.

Room for Thunder

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the final two sentences that show how the narrator changed. Circle two earlier moments that make this ending believable. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the narrator describe in the final two sentences?	**The narrator changes from trying to control every sound alone to listening to others and making room for a partner.**
2	Which two actions during the storm scene make the narrator's conclusion believable?	**Luis suggests using the box, and the narrator joins him to make rain and thunder sounds.**
3	Why would "I decided to handle every sound alone next time" not fit as an ending?	**Working with Luis creates a storm sound the teacher praises, so deciding to work alone would not reflect what happened.**
4	How does leaving room at the sound table connect to the way the narrator guarded it at the start?	**At first the narrator refuses Luis's help. Leaving room for a partner shows the narrator is now willing to share the work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I packed my kite for a windy afternoon at the park. When the wind died, my brother spotted a trail beside the pond. We followed it and found three turtles resting on a log. I went home with my kite still folded, but I did not feel disappointed. Changing our plan helped me notice something I would have missed in the sky.

Accept answers that connect the narrator's decision to welcome a partner with Luis's help during the storm scene. For Part 3, look for five sentences with an ending that follows from the events and reflects on them.