

A Story Begins

Notice how a narrative opening sets the scene and introduces people.

3W3.a "Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell the time and place. Circle the narrator's name and the names of other characters so you can see how the opening sets up the story.

Apples Before Lunch

- ① On Saturday morning, I carried my red wagon down the sidewalk to Maple Street. Rain had stopped, but puddles still shone beside the curb. I was Mina, and I had promised to bring apples to the neighborhood soup kitchen before lunch. The air smelled fresh, and my sneakers made soft splashes as I walked alone.
- ② At the corner, Grandpa Luis waited beside his blue bicycle. He wore a yellow raincoat and held a list of foods for the kitchen. "The apples are heavy," he said, smiling at my wagon. We needed to reach the old brick church by eleven o'clock, when volunteers would begin making soup. I checked the cloudy sky and pulled the wagon toward the market.
- ③ Then my little brother, Theo, raced from our house with a paper bag tucked under his arm. His green boots slapped the wet sidewalk. "Wait for me!" he called. Theo wanted to give the kitchen a jar of cinnamon from our pantry. I looked at Grandpa, the wagon, and the dark clouds gathering over Maple Street. Our busy morning was about to become even busier.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Who is telling this story? What word in the passage helps you know?

2 When and where does the story begin?

3 Name two other characters Mina introduces in the opening.

4 What goal is introduced at the start of the story?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 4- or 5-sentence opening for your own imagined story. Introduce yourself as the narrator, tell when and where the story begins, and introduce at least one other character.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell the time and place. Circle the narrator's name and the names of other characters so you can see how the opening sets up the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is telling this story? What word in the passage helps you know?	Mina is telling the story. The word "I" shows that Mina is the narrator.
2	When and where does the story begin?	It begins on Saturday morning on the sidewalk near Maple Street.
3	Name two other characters Mina introduces in the opening.	Grandpa Luis and Theo.
4	What goal is introduced at the start of the story?	Mina plans to bring apples to the neighborhood soup kitchen before lunch.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Yesterday after school, I, Jordan, waited at the library door as wind pushed leaves across the steps. My neighbor Ava hurried toward me with a small key in her hand. We were there to return a lost book before the library closed. Ava pointed to a note taped beside the door, and we both stopped.

Accept answers that use the passage's details about the narrator, setting, characters, and goal. For the writing task, accept varied imagined openings that clearly establish a time and place and introduce a narrator and another character.