

Opening Scene

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

5W3.a "Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell where and when the story begins. Circle the narrator and each character introduced, then write 1 beside the first place each one is introduced.

Pepper at the Shelter

- ① On Saturday morning, I, Maya Torres, unlocked the door of the town animal shelter with my uncle Ben. Rain tapped the windows, and the parking lot shone like a mirror. We had come early because the shelter was holding an adoption event at ten o'clock. I carried a box of clean towels while Uncle Ben pushed a cart of dog food.
- ② Inside, the air smelled of soap and warm fur. Ms. Lee, the shelter manager, checked a list near the front desk. A small brown puppy pressed its nose against the gate of its pen and wagged its tail at me. "That is Pepper," Ms. Lee said. "She is meeting a family today." I knelt beside the pen, careful not to startle her.
- ③ Just then, a loud crash came from the supply room behind us. Pepper barked, and the other dogs began to whine. Uncle Ben hurried toward the noise, but Ms. Lee stayed at the desk to greet the first visitors. I looked at Pepper's shaking paws and then at the dark hallway. For the first time that morning, I wondered whether I could help.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What situation brings Maya and Uncle Ben to the animal shelter?

2 How does the writer introduce the narrator in the first sentence?

3 Name the two characters introduced in the second paragraph and tell each character's role.

4 Which details show that Pepper is nervous near the end of the passage? How do those details help you learn about her?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 5- or 6-sentence opening for a new narrative. Introduce yourself as the narrator, at least one other character, the time and place, and the situation that is starting.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell where and when the story begins. Circle the narrator and each character introduced, then write 1 beside the first place each one is introduced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What situation brings Maya and Uncle Ben to the animal shelter?	They arrive early to help at an animal shelter adoption event that begins at ten o'clock.
2	How does the writer introduce the narrator in the first sentence?	The narrator says "I, Maya Torres," which gives the narrator's name and shows that Maya tells the story.
3	Name the two characters introduced in the second paragraph and tell each character's role.	Ms. Lee is the shelter manager. Pepper is a small brown puppy who is meeting a family.
4	Which details show that Pepper is nervous near the end of the passage? How do those details help you learn about her?	Pepper barks, and Maya notices her shaking paws. These details show that Pepper is frightened by the crash.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, I, Jordan Kim, stood backstage at Lincoln Elementary with my friend Alina. The school talent show would begin in twenty minutes, and we had volunteered to announce the acts. Rain drummed on the auditorium roof while Alina practiced reading the first name from a wrinkled card. I held the microphone tightly because it was my first time speaking to a crowd. When the principal waved from the curtain, Alina and I stepped toward the bright stage lights.

Accept equivalent setting and character evidence that is clearly supported by the passage. For the writing task, accept a 5- or 6-sentence narrative opening that establishes a time, place, situation, narrator, and at least one other character.