

Launch Day Details

Study how a model narrative makes one event feel real.

6W3.d "Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three precise verbs, circle four sensory details, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show the beginning, problem, and outcome of the event.

The Cardboard Boat

- ① On Saturday morning, I carried our class's cardboard boat to the park pond. The hull, built from layered boxes and silver tape, bumped against my knees as I walked down the muddy path. At the shore, wind pushed small waves against the reeds with a soft slap. My partner Nia held the boat steady while I set a bottle-cap compass inside. The sharp smell of wet grass mixed with the smoky scent of a nearby grill.
- ② Then we lowered the boat into the brown water. It rocked once, then glided away from the bank. For a breath, the tape seams held, and sunlight flashed on the wrinkled cardboard. A duck paddled past, leaving a V-shaped trail that made our boat tilt. Water crept through a gap near the bow. I heard a faint tearing sound, and one corner sagged like a soaked cereal box. Nia's fingers tightened around my sleeve beside me.
- ③ Within minutes, the boat tipped and filled. Nia and I waded in, our sneakers squishing as cold water soaked our socks. We lifted the soggy hull from the pond, and muddy drops pattered back into the water. Although our boat had not crossed the pond, we laughed at its lopsided shape. On the walk home, I wrote three notes for our next design: seal the bow, raise the sides, and use fewer heavy tape strips. The failed launch felt like a useful first test.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which precise verb shows that the boat moved smoothly away from the bank?

2 Quote one detail you can hear and one detail you can smell from the first paragraph.

3 What does the detail about Nia's fingers tightening around the narrator's sleeve suggest about her reaction?

4 Which phrase explains exactly where water entered the boat? Why is it more precise than saying, "The boat leaked"?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence narrative about a small plan that changes unexpectedly. Include at least three precise verbs, two sensory details using different senses, and one sentence that shows a feeling through an action or dialogue.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three precise verbs, circle four sensory details, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show the beginning, problem, and outcome of the event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which precise verb shows that the boat moved smoothly away from the bank?	glided
2	Quote one detail you can hear and one detail you can smell from the first paragraph.	Possible answers: hear, “a soft slap”; smell, “The sharp smell of wet grass” or “the smoky scent of a nearby grill.”
3	What does the detail about Nia's fingers tightening around the narrator's sleeve suggest about her reaction?	It suggests that Nia feels worried or nervous as the boat begins to fail.
4	Which phrase explains exactly where water entered the boat? Why is it more precise than saying, “The boat leaked”?	“Water crept through a gap near the bow.” It identifies the location, near the front of the boat, and describes the water's slow movement.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I raced to the bus stop with my science project tucked under my coat. Rain drummed on the plastic lid, and cold drops slid down my neck. At the corner, the wind snatched my chart from my hands. I froze and watched the blue paper skid across the shiny pavement. “Please stop,” I whispered as I chased it past a puddle. When I caught the soaked chart, my shaking hands told me I would need a new plan.

Accept equivalent quoted sensory details and reasonable inferences supported by the passage. For the narrative, check for six sentences, precise verbs, sensory language from two senses, and a feeling shown through action or dialogue.