

Stage Door Nerves

A model narrative opening that establishes a first-person point of view and introduces characters.

7W3.a “Engage the reader by establishing a point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two words or phrases that show the narrator's first-person point of view, circle each character's first introduction, and number three details that reveal the narrator's feelings.

The Audition

- ① At 6:40 on Saturday morning, I stood outside the locked doors of the Riverside Community Theater, squeezing my audition form until its corners bent. My older sister, Maya, had promised to help me practice, but her bike lay upside down beside the curb. A silver chain had slipped from the wheel, and Maya was kneeling in a puddle, her hands already black with grease. I watched the minute hand crawl across my phone screen and wished I could disappear.
- ② Then Mr. Ortiz, the theater director, pushed open a side door and spotted us. “Auditions begin in five minutes,” he called, smiling as if five minutes were plenty. Maya tugged the chain, and the wheel jammed harder. I knew the monologue by heart, yet my voice had vanished somewhere between our apartment and this sidewalk. When Mr. Ortiz stepped closer, I expected him to tell me that late arrivals did not deserve a chance.
- ③ Instead, he crouched beside Maya and lifted the bike frame. “Hold this bolt,” he said. Maya looked at me, her wet hair stuck to her cheek, and nodded toward the theater. My stomach still churned, but I understood completely what she meant. I ran through the side door alone, carrying my crumpled form like a flag. Inside, a row of strangers waited under bright stage lights. For the first time that morning, I stopped wishing to disappear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What point of view does the narrator use? Give one word or phrase from the passage that proves your answer.

2 How does the first paragraph introduce Maya and show her relationship to the narrator?

3 Name two details that reveal the narrator's nervous feelings before the audition.

4 How does the narrator's point of view help you understand why running through the side door is important?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence opening to a narrative in first-person point of view. Introduce yourself as the narrator and one other character, include two concrete details that reveal your feelings, and end with a situation that makes the reader want to know what happens next.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two words or phrases that show the narrator's first-person point of view, circle each character's first introduction, and number three details that reveal the narrator's feelings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point of view does the narrator use? Give one word or phrase from the passage that proves your answer.	First-person point of view. Evidence includes "I stood," "my audition form," or another first-person word or phrase.
2	How does the first paragraph introduce Maya and show her relationship to the narrator?	Maya is introduced as the narrator's older sister. She had promised to help the narrator practice for the audition.
3	Name two details that reveal the narrator's nervous feelings before the audition.	Answers may include squeezing the form until its corners bent, watching the minute hand crawl, wishing to disappear, saying the voice had vanished, or having a churning stomach.
4	How does the narrator's point of view help you understand why running through the side door is important?	The narrator reveals fear about being late and auditioning, including expecting to be denied a chance. The narrator's choice to run inside shows a change from wanting to disappear to taking a chance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain hammered the bus shelter as I, Lila Chen, clutched the paper bridge I had built for the science contest. Beside me, Devin tapped his soaked sneaker against the curb and checked the time. He had laughed at my careful measurements yesterday, but now his backpack held the only dry glue. When the bus rounded the corner, a gust bent one corner of my bridge. My throat tightened as I pictured the judges lifting it. I had to decide whether to ask Devin for help before the doors opened.

Accept different correctly supported examples for the passage questions. For the narrative opening, look for consistent first-person narration, a clear introduction of the narrator and another character, concrete feeling details, and an ending that creates interest.