

Storm Shift Signals

A model narrative guides readers through time and place changes.

7W3.c "Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word, phrase, or clause that tells when events happen. Circle each phrase that moves the reader to a different time or setting, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the three main events in order.

Saving the Seedlings

- ① At 6:10 on Friday evening, Maya balanced a tray of seedlings on the school greenhouse bench. First, she checked the labels, then she poured water slowly around each stem. Outside, rain tapped the glass roof, and the lights flickered. A moment later, the room went dark. Because the storm had cut the power, the heater stopped humming. Maya remembered that the young plants could chill quickly. Instead of waiting for an adult, she gathered the trays and headed toward the science hallway.
- ② In the hallway, emergency lamps cast pale circles on the floor. Meanwhile, Mr. Ortiz called the office, but the intercom was silent. As Maya carried the trays past the library, she recalled last spring's frost. Back then, a single cold night had bent the class's bean seedlings. After that loss, Mr. Ortiz had shown everyone how to use insulated storage boxes. Now, at the end of the hallway, Maya spotted one beside the custodian's closet. Carefully, she lined it with towels and set the trays inside.
- ③ Twenty minutes later, the principal announced that families should wait in the gym until the storm passed. By then, Maya had placed a note on the storage box so no one would move it. In the gym, she watched rain slide down the high windows and listened to worried voices. Finally, the power returned, and the greenhouse heater began to hum again. The next morning, Maya opened the box before classes started. The seedlings stood upright, and fresh drops shone on their leaves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which two transition words show the order of Maya's first actions in the greenhouse?

2 What time shift does the phrase "Back then" introduce? Include the event it takes the reader to.

3 Which phrase signals that the setting has changed to the gym? What does Maya do there?

4 How do "Finally" and "The next morning" help readers place the last two events in order?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence narrative about solving a small problem. Use at least five transitional words, phrases, or clauses, including one that shifts to a different setting and one that shifts to an earlier or later time.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every word, phrase, or clause that tells when events happen. Circle each phrase that moves the reader to a different time or setting, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the three main events in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two transition words show the order of Maya's first actions in the greenhouse?	First and then.
2	What time shift does the phrase "Back then" introduce? Include the event it takes the reader to.	It shifts the reader from the stormy evening to last spring, when a cold night bent the class's bean seedlings.
3	Which phrase signals that the setting has changed to the gym? What does Maya do there?	"In the gym" signals the setting change. Maya watches rain on the windows and listens to worried voices.
4	How do "Finally" and "The next morning" help readers place the last two events in order?	"Finally" shows that the power returns after the wait. "The next morning" shows that Maya opens the box on the following day.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I packed my recorder in the music room before the talent show. As I crossed the quiet hallway, I heard a crash near the stage. A year earlier, I had dropped my instrument during rehearsal, so I hurried toward the sound. In the auditorium, I found a loose music stand beside the curtain. After I tightened its knob, the stand stopped wobbling. Later that night, I played my song without worrying that it would fall.

Accept equivalent quoted transitions and accurate explanations of the sequence or shift they signal. For the writing task, look for six sentences, at least five effective time or setting signals, and clear event order.