

The Patched Boat

Notice how a narrative turns a problem into a finished event.

7W3 “Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details and clear sequencing.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two sensory details, circle the problem and its solution, and number five major events to show their order.

Race Day Repair

- ① On Saturday morning, I carried our cardboard boat to the school pool, keeping both hands beneath its soggy-looking hull. The hallway smelled like chlorine and wet towels. At the pool door, my partner Nia lifted the rubber-band propeller from her backpack. “It still spins,” she said, but her voice sounded thinner than usual. We had spent three weeks building the boat for the science club race, and now its taped seams fluttered whenever the air conditioner clicked on.
- ② First, we set the boat in the shallow test lane. It floated for one quiet second. Then water slipped through a seam near the stern, darkening the cardboard. Nia grabbed a roll of tape, while I pressed my thumb over the leak. My stomach tightened as the starting whistle blew for the next team. Instead of racing, we crouched beside the pool and layered tape across the rip. Finally, the leak slowed to three small drips, and the propeller began to turn again.
- ③ When our turn came, we wound the propeller until the rubber band hummed between my fingers. I lowered the boat into the lane and let go. It wobbled, dipped, and then moved forward in a crooked line. The crowd's cheers bounced off the tiled walls. Halfway across, the boat leaned toward the left, but the tape held. It reached the far rope just as the propeller stopped. Nia and I splashed our hands together, laughing, because our patched boat had finished the race.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the first paragraph establish the characters' goal and the trouble they may face? Use two details from the paragraph.

2 What actions do Nia and the narrator take after water enters the boat and before the leak slows? Put the actions in order.

3 Copy one sensory detail from the passage. Then explain how it helps you picture the setting or action.

4 What event creates suspense near the end of the race, and what detail shows that the problem is resolved?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 6- to 8-sentence narrative scene, 80 to 110 words, about solving an unexpected problem during an event. Use *first*, *then*, and *finally*, include at least two sensory details, and show a clear ending.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two sensory details, circle the problem and its solution, and number five major events to show their order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph establish the characters' goal and the trouble they may face? Use two details from the paragraph.	The characters want to race their cardboard boat in the science club race. The boat's soggy-looking hull and fluttering taped seams suggest it may leak or fall apart.
2	What actions do Nia and the narrator take after water enters the boat and before the leak slows? Put the actions in order.	Nia gets tape, the narrator covers the leak with a thumb, and they crouch beside the pool to layer tape across the rip.
3	Copy one sensory detail from the passage. Then explain how it helps you picture the setting or action.	Example: "The hallway smelled like chlorine and wet towels." It helps the reader picture and smell the school pool area.
4	What event creates suspense near the end of the race, and what detail shows that the problem is resolved?	The boat leans toward the left halfway across the lane. The tape holds, and the boat reaches the far rope.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I stepped onto the stage for the school talent show, gripping my violin case. The bright lights warmed my face, and the curtain smelled dusty. Then I saw that one string had slipped loose. My hands shook as the audience grew quiet. I borrowed a pencil from the music teacher and carefully turned the tuning peg. Finally, the string tightened, and I played my song. When the last note faded, the applause sounded like rain against the roof above us.

Accept answers that identify accurate details and explain how sequencing or description develops the event. For the narrative, accept real or imagined scenes that meet the sentence, word-count, sequencing, sensory-detail, problem, and ending requirements.