

Rooftop First Look

Notice how a narrator's point of view introduces people and builds interest.

8W3.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 words that show the narrator's first-person point of view. Circle details that introduce Mia or Mr. Alvarez, then notice how these details help you picture the scene.

Waiting for the Sky

- ① When the last bell rang, I stayed behind in the science wing, pretending to organize my backpack. Really, I was waiting for Mr. Alvarez to unlock the roof door. He had promised that the astronomy club could use the telescope during the meteor shower, and I had spent all day worrying that clouds would ruin everything. I gripped my notebook so tightly that its corners bent. Mia, my fearless lab partner, bounced beside me, already wearing her red knit cap.
- ② Mr. Alvarez pushed the heavy door open, and cold air swept across my face. "Only twenty minutes," he said, pointing at a bank of clouds above the football field. Mia hurried toward the telescope, but I paused at the doorway. From the roof, our school looked smaller than usual, its lit windows floating in the dark. I wanted to sound calm, yet each gust made the telescope tremble, and I imagined the sky closing before a single meteor appeared.
- ③ Then Mia whispered, "There!" A thin white streak cut across the northern sky, and I forgot the cold. Another flashed above the water tower, then two more followed. Mr. Alvarez laughed softly, but Mia and I did not speak. I wrote each time in my notebook, afraid that looking down too long would make me miss the next one. For the first time that evening, the roof did not feel exposed. It felt like the best seat in the world.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Who is telling this story? Name two words that show the narrator's point of view.

2 How does the writer introduce Mia? Give two details and explain what they suggest about her.

3 Before the first meteor appears, what is the narrator worried about? Use two details from the passage.

4 How does the narrator's view of the roof change by the end? Use the passage's words to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence opening for an imagined scene in an unfamiliar or tense place. Use first-person point of view, introduce yourself as the narrator, and introduce one other character through a specific action or detail.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that show the narrator's first-person point of view. Circle details that introduce Mia or Mr. Alvarez, then notice how these details help you picture the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is telling this story? Name two words that show the narrator's point of view.	An unnamed astronomy club student is telling the story. The words "I" and "my" show first-person point of view.
2	How does the writer introduce Mia? Give two details and explain what they suggest about her.	Mia is the narrator's "fearless lab partner" who bounces beside the narrator and hurries toward the telescope. These details suggest that she is eager and confident.
3	Before the first meteor appears, what is the narrator worried about? Use two details from the passage.	The narrator worries that clouds will ruin the viewing and that the sky will close before a meteor appears. The narrator also grips the notebook tightly and imagines missing the meteors.
4	How does the narrator's view of the roof change by the end? Use the passage's words to support your answer.	At first, the roof feels cold and exposed to the narrator. After seeing meteors, it feels like "the best seat in the world."

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I kept my hand on the backstage curtain because the audience sounded louder than the rain outside. My name is Jordan, and tonight I was supposed to play the lead in our school play. Beside me, Keisha, the stage manager, tightened her headset and checked the prop table for the third time. She looked calm, which made my shaking knees feel even worse. When the lights dimmed, I wondered whether I could remember my first line.

Accept equivalent descriptions supported by details from the passage. For the writing task, look for a clear first-person narrator, an established point of view, and a second character introduced through a meaningful detail or action.