

Lantern at Dusk

Track how transitions guide a narrative through time, place, and connected events.

8W3.c “Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word, phrase, or clause that signals sequence, a shift in time or setting, or a relationship between events, so you can see how the narrative moves.

The Greenhouse Blackout

- ① At 3:15, I stayed behind in the school greenhouse to water seedlings for the science fair. Outside, rain tapped the glass roof, but inside, the air smelled of damp soil and basil. First, I checked the trays near the heater. Then, I filled a blue watering can at the sink. As I turned toward the tomato plants, the lights blinked twice and went out. For a moment, only the rain and the ticking wall clock filled the dark room.
- ② Earlier that morning, Mr. Ortiz, the custodian, had shown our class the greenhouse's backup lantern. “Keep it by the door,” he had said, “in case the power fails.” Now, remembering his words, I felt along the potting bench instead of rushing toward the exit. After my fingers found the lantern, I switched it on. Its small circle of light slid across silver watering tools and curled bean vines. Meanwhile, thunder rolled beyond the roof, and water drummed harder against the glass.
- ③ A few minutes later, the emergency generator hummed, and the overhead lamps flickered back to life. Before I left, I carried the lantern to the door, just as Mr. Ortiz had instructed. The next afternoon, however, I returned to find a note on the bench: “Storm expected after school.” This time, I placed the lantern beside the sink before watering anything. When the lights stayed on, I laughed at my careful preparation. Still, as I locked the greenhouse, I noticed the dark clouds gathering over the soccer field and understood why a small plan can matter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which transition phrase moves the narrative from the blackout to an earlier time?

2 What words signal the return from the earlier memory to the narrator's present situation in the greenhouse?

3 Name two sequence transitions from paragraph 1, and tell what action follows each one.

4 What time shift does "The next afternoon, however" signal, and what does the narrator do differently after that shift?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 5- to 7-sentence narrative about a small unexpected change during an activity. Use at least three different transitions, including one that shifts to a different time or setting, and show how one event leads to another.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every word, phrase, or clause that signals sequence, a shift in time or setting, or a relationship between events, so you can see how the narrative moves. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which transition phrase moves the narrative from the blackout to an earlier time?	"Earlier that morning" moves the narrative to an earlier time.
2	What words signal the return from the earlier memory to the narrator's present situation in the greenhouse?	"Now, remembering his words" signals the return to the present situation.
3	Name two sequence transitions from paragraph 1, and tell what action follows each one.	"First" introduces checking the trays near the heater. "Then" introduces filling the watering can at the sink.
4	What time shift does "The next afternoon, however" signal, and what does the narrator do differently after that shift?	It shifts the story to the following day. The narrator places the lantern beside the sink before watering.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After lunch, I stayed in the gym to practice free throws. First, I bounced the ball slowly and aimed at the back of the rim. When the fire alarm sounded, the coach led us outside to the track. A few minutes later, after the alarm stopped, we returned to the gym. Because my hands were cold from the wind, I missed my first shot back. Then I took a breath, adjusted my grip, and made the next three shots.

Accept quoted transitions or accurate descriptions of their functions. For the narrative, accept varied transition language that clearly sequences events, signals a time or setting shift, and connects events logically.