

Locked Door, Two Views

Analyze how a narrative opening establishes conflict, characters, and perspective.

9-10W3a “Engage the reader by presenting a problem, conflict, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Put a star beside the first sentence, box the sentence that introduces Nia by name, underline the sentence beginning “I thought,” and circle the sentence beginning “Mr. Bell saw” to track the conflict, narrator, and two viewpoints.

The Final Test

- ① At 6:40 on Friday, I found the auditorium doors chained shut, even though our robotics team was scheduled to test its solar-powered rover inside. My name is Nia Patel, and I had spent three weeks programming the rover to avoid chairs and backpacks. Through the glass, I saw Mr. Bell, the custodian, taping a yellow notice to the door. The regional contest began at noon tomorrow. Without the final test, I worried that one loose command could send Atlas, our rover, straight into a wall.
- ② Mr. Bell turned from the notice when he heard the chain rattle. “The roof crew found a leak above the stage,” he said. “I cannot let students work under it.” I thought the test mattered more than a puddle hidden behind curtains; the contest deadline did not care about our ceiling. Mr. Bell saw the same morning differently. He pointed to a dark stain spreading across a ceiling tile and said that safety had to come first. Behind me, my teammate Luis groaned, then crouched beside Atlas to inspect its wheels.
- ③ “What if we move the test outside?” Luis asked. The parking lot was open, but its cracked pavement would confuse Atlas’s sensors. I looked again at the notice, then at Mr. Bell’s worried face. My first anger felt smaller when water dripped from the chain onto the floor. “Could we use the library hallway after the roof crew leaves?” I asked. Mr. Bell called the principal, while Luis opened his laptop on the steps. We still had a problem, but now each of us was searching for a different way to solve it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What immediate situation creates the conflict at the beginning of the passage?

2 How does the opening introduce Nia as the narrator and show why she cares about the situation?

3 How do Nia's and Mr. Bell's viewpoints differ in paragraph 2?

4 Which detail in paragraph 3 shows that Nia's viewpoint is beginning to change? Explain what it shows.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90 to 110-word first-person narrative opening. Introduce yourself as the narrator and one other character, establish an immediate problem, and show how you and the other character see the problem differently.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Put a star beside the first sentence, box the sentence that introduces Nia by name, underline the sentence beginning “I thought,” and circle the sentence beginning “Mr. Bell saw” to track the conflict, narrator, and two viewpoints. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What immediate situation creates the conflict at the beginning of the passage?	The auditorium is chained shut, preventing the robotics team from completing its final rover test before the contest.
2	How does the opening introduce Nia as the narrator and show why she cares about the situation?	Nia introduces herself by name and explains that she spent three weeks programming Atlas. She worries that missing the final test could cause the rover to crash.
3	How do Nia's and Mr. Bell's viewpoints differ in paragraph 2?	Nia prioritizes testing the rover before the contest deadline. Mr. Bell prioritizes student safety because of the roof leak.
4	Which detail in paragraph 3 shows that Nia's viewpoint is beginning to change? Explain what it shows.	Nia sees water dripping from the chain and says her anger feels smaller. This shows that she begins to understand Mr. Bell's safety concern.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At 7:15, I stood outside the city pool with my swim bag pressed against my knee. My name is Jordan Lee, and today was the tryout that could put me on the relay team. Coach Alvarez held a clipboard beneath the rain shelter and told us the pool's filter had failed overnight. I wanted to wait because the next tryout was not for a month. Coach Alvarez wanted everyone to leave before the storm strengthened. When lightning flashed beyond the diving boards, I understood her caution, but I still watched the locked gate as if it had taken something from me.

Accept responses that identify the closed auditorium as the central opening problem and support viewpoint claims with accurate passage details. For the writing task, accept varied situations if the opening clearly introduces a first-person narrator, another character, a conflict, and contrasting perspectives.