Build the Story

Notice how a plan becomes a story with clear paragraphs.

3.2.W.1 "Students will routinely use a recursive process to prewrite, organize, and develop narrative, informative, and opinion drafts that display evidence of paragraphing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3. Underline the sentence where the first test fails and the sentence where the new test works to see why the story changes paragraphs.

The Paper Bridge

1. On Friday, our class built bridges from paper and tape. My partner, Leo, and I wanted our bridge to hold a stack of books. We stretched one flat sheet between two desks and taped down the ends. It looked like a smooth road. I drew a tiny car on a scrap of paper and set it beside our bridge, ready for its first trip.

2. Leo placed one book in the middle. The paper sagged, and the book slid toward the floor. I grabbed it just in time. We looked under the bridge and saw that the flat paper had no support in the middle. Leo folded a fresh sheet back and forth like a fan. I taped the folded sheet under our road while he held the ends steady.

3. We tried again with one book, then added another. This time, the bridge stayed up. Our paper car rolled across the top without falling into the gap. Leo and I laughed so loudly that the next group came over to see. I wrote in my notebook that our first bridge bent, but our second bridge held two books. Next time, I want to test three.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details in paragraph 1 help readers picture the bridge before it is tested?

2. Why does the first test belong in paragraph 2 instead of paragraph 1?

3. If you made a quick plan for paragraph 2, what detail would you list for the problem and what detail would you list for the fix?

4. Which detail in paragraph 3 shows that the fix worked? Why does it belong after paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a real or made-up small problem and a fix. Write your plan first, then write two short story paragraphs of two sentences each: show the problem in the first paragraph, and show the fix and what happens in the second.

ANSWER KEY

Build the Story

GRADE 3 · 3.2.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3. Underline the sentence where the first test fails and the sentence where the new test works to see why the story changes paragraphs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details in paragraph 1 help readers picture the bridge before it is tested?	**Leo and the narrator stretch a flat sheet between two desks and tape down its ends.**
2	Why does the first test belong in paragraph 2 instead of paragraph 1?	**Paragraph 1 sets up the bridge. The first test begins the problem because the paper sags.**
3	If you made a quick plan for paragraph 2, what detail would you list for the problem and what detail would you list for the fix?	**Problem: The flat paper sags under a book. Fix: Leo folds another sheet, and they tape it under the road.**
4	Which detail in paragraph 3 shows that the fix worked? Why does it belong after paragraph 2?	**The bridge holds two books. This belongs after paragraph 2 because the folded support must be added before they test the bridge again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plan: My lunch bag ripped; I used a spare tote.

The bottom of my lunch bag tore as I walked to the lunchroom. My sandwich and apple almost fell out.

I put my lunch in a spare tote from our classroom shelf. Its handles held, and I reached the lunchroom with everything inside.

For the marking job, accept the sentence about the paper sagging and the sentence stating that the bridge stayed up. For the open task, look for a plan that matches the story and a paragraph break between the problem and the fix.