The Paper Boat

Look for clues about who tells a story.

3.3.R.2 "Students will determine whether a grade-level literary text is narrated in first- or third-person point of view."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two names or pronouns outside the speech marks that help show who tells the story, and circle one pronoun inside the speech marks to compare them.

The Red Sail

1. Maya carried a small paper boat to the creek behind her aunt's garden. Rain had filled the creek, and the water tugged at fallen leaves. Her little brother, Nico, held a twig like a flag. Maya set the boat near the bank, but it tipped at once. Nico reached for it. “I can save it!” he shouted, splashing one shoe into the mud.

2. The boat slipped past Nico's twig and spun toward a flat rock. Maya ran along the bank, watching its bright red sail. She could see a branch caught between two stones ahead. If the boat hit it, the sail might tear. Nico hurried after her. “Wait for me!” he called. Maya found a long stick and stretched it across the rushing water.

3. The stick touched the boat just before it reached the branch. Maya pulled slowly, and the boat slid into a quiet pool beside the bank. Nico scooped it up with both hands. Its sail was bent, but it was still dry. “We did it!” Nico said. Maya smiled at the muddy mark on his shoe. Then she carried the boat home to fix its sail.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is the story told by a character in it or by a narrator outside the story? Name the point of view.

2. Copy two words from paragraph 1, outside the speech marks, that show the point of view.

3. Nico says, "I can save it!" Does the word I make Nico the narrator? Explain.

4. Copy one sentence from paragraph 3 that shows the narrator talking about Maya instead of speaking as Maya. What point of view does it show?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new two-sentence ending to the boat story as if Maya tells it herself. Use I or my in each sentence, then label the point of view on a separate line.

ANSWER KEY

The Paper Boat

GRADE 3 · 3.3.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two names or pronouns outside the speech marks that help show who tells the story, and circle one pronoun inside the speech marks to compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is the story told by a character in it or by a narrator outside the story? Name the point of view.	**A narrator outside the story tells it. The point of view is third person.**
2	Copy two words from paragraph 1, outside the speech marks, that show the point of view.	**Maya and Her.**
3	Nico says, "I can save it!" Does the word I make Nico the narrator? Explain.	**No. I is in Nico's speech. The narrator calls Nico he.**
4	Copy one sentence from paragraph 3 that shows the narrator talking about Maya instead of speaking as Maya. What point of view does it show?	**"Maya smiled at the muddy mark on his shoe." It shows third-person point of view.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I carried our boat home and laid it on the table. I found a scrap of red paper and made my sail taller than before.
Point of view: first person

Accept any accurate narration clues outside speech marks, such as Maya, Nico, her, she, or he. For the new ending, look for two sentences told as Maya using I or my in each, plus a first-person label.