Whole Thought Hunt

Sort complete thoughts from unfinished ones.

3.5.W.1 "Students will compose simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, avoiding and correcting fragments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SENTENCE

A sentence shares a complete thought. It can tell, ask, command, or exclaim something.

Frogs leap.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is an unfinished thought. It may name something or tell where or when without saying what happens.

Behind tall curtains.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1. Mina painted a birdhouse. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

2. Beside our mailbox. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

3. A bright yellow scarf. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

4. Can you hear music? SENTENCE FRAGMENT

5. Close your notebook. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

6. Lightning lit the sky! SENTENCE FRAGMENT

7. During recess. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

8. My old rubber boots. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence and one new fragment.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment from Part 1 and add words to make it a complete sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Whole Thought Hunt

GRADE 3 · 3.5.W.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mina painted a birdhouse.	**SENTENCE**	It tells who did something and what she did.
2	Beside our mailbox.	**FRAGMENT**	It tells where but does not give a complete thought.
3	A bright yellow scarf.	**FRAGMENT**	It names something but does not say what happens.
4	Can you hear music?	**SENTENCE**	It asks a complete question.
5	Close your notebook.	**SENTENCE**	It gives a complete command.
6	Lightning lit the sky!	**SENTENCE**	It exclaims a complete thought.
7	During recess.	**FRAGMENT**	It tells when but not what happened.
8	My old rubber boots.	**FRAGMENT**	It names something but does not say what happens.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SENTENCE**: Ravi caught a baseball.
- **FRAGMENT**: Across our driveway.

Challenge: During recess, we played tag.

For Part 2, accept explanations that show why each chosen item is a complete or unfinished thought. In Part 3, accept any new examples that fit their categories.