A Change of Plan

Notice how each paragraph moves a story forward.

4.2.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 Circle the first sentence of each paragraph. Underline one detail in each paragraph that helps develop that part of the story.

The Rainy Day Book Swap

1. On Saturday, our class set up a tiny book swap outside the school library. Ms. Chen brought a wooden box with a clear lid, and each student added a book. Before lunch, dark clouds rolled over the playground. I noticed that the lid did not close all the way. If rain slipped inside, the pages might turn into soggy paper.

2. I told Ms. Chen about the gap, then looked for something to keep the books dry. My first idea was to move the box under a tree, but rain could still drip through the leaves. I checked the hallway and found an empty cart. With Ms. Chen's help, I rolled the cart beside the library door and placed the box on top.

3. As the first drops fell, we pushed the cart into the covered entryway. The books stayed dry, and students could still reach them after school. I wrote a sign that said, "Take a book. Leave a book." A third grader picked a mystery, then put a comic in its place. Our book swap was ready for another rainy day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does paragraph 1 set up the problem in the story? Name two details.

2. Why does the narrator change plans in paragraph 2?

3. Why does paragraph 3 begin when the first drops fall, instead of while the narrator is making a plan?

4. The writer wants to add, "The comic had a bright yellow cover." Which paragraph should include this detail, and where would it fit?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Jot three short notes for a story about a different classroom event: the problem, a changed plan, and the ending. Then write one paragraph of five or six sentences in that order. Reread your paragraph and underline one detail you added to make an event clearer.

ANSWER KEY

A Change of Plan

GRADE 4 · 4.2.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the first sentence of each paragraph. Underline one detail in each paragraph that helps develop that part of the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 set up the problem in the story? Name two details.	**Dark clouds appear, and the box lid does not close all the way, so rain could get the books wet.**
2	Why does the narrator change plans in paragraph 2?	**Moving the box under a tree would not keep it dry because rain could drip through the leaves.**
3	Why does paragraph 3 begin when the first drops fall, instead of while the narrator is making a plan?	**Paragraph 2 tells how the narrator chooses and prepares a new plan. Paragraph 3 shows the plan in action and what happens afterward.**
4	The writer wants to add, "The comic had a bright yellow cover." Which paragraph should include this detail, and where would it fit?	**It belongs in paragraph 3, next to the sentence about the third grader leaving a comic.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Problem: puppet string snaps
Changed plan: tape fails, so I use ribbon
Ending: we finish the show

During our class puppet show, the dragon's string snapped. I first tried tape, but the string kept slipping free. Then I tied a ribbon from our craft bin to the dragon's wing. The blue ribbon held tight when I lifted the puppet above the curtain. My partner made the dragon roar while I moved its wings. The audience laughed, and we finished the scene.

Accept any passage detail that supports the stated role of a paragraph. For the open task, look for three planning notes, one ordered paragraph of five or six sentences, a changed plan, and an underlined clarifying detail.