Before the Rain

Read a scene, then write one with a turning point.

4.3.W.1 "Students will compose narratives reflecting real or imagined experiences that: • include plots with a climax and resolution • include developed characters who overcome conflicts and use dialogue • use a consistent point of view • unfold in..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem the wind causes, circle the moment the seedling is most at risk, and number the two actions in the last paragraph that keep the seedlings safe.

The Little Seedling

1 On Saturday, I carried our class seedlings to the school garden. My friend Nia had grown them from seeds, and she checked each leaf twice. A sharp wind rattled the fence like a box of pencils. "The pots will tip," she said. I wanted to finish planting before the rain, but the first drops already tapped my sleeves. We set the pots on a low bench and hurried for the trowels.

2 Then the bench shook. One pot skidded toward the edge, its thin green stem bending. Nia froze with the trowels in her hands. "Catch it!" she cried. I lunged, but the wet pot slipped through my fingers. For one breath, it hung above the stone path. I dropped my trowel and caught the pot against my chest. Mud splashed my chin, and the stem stayed upright.

3 Nia let out a long breath. "You saved the little one," she said, brushing mud from a leaf. Instead of putting the pots back on the bench, we moved them against the garden wall, where the wind was weaker. Together, we dug small holes and tucked each seedling into the dark soil. Rain soaked my socks, but Nia grinned at the neat row. "They have a better home now," I said.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem starts the plot, and what does Nia say that shows she notices it?

2. What is the most tense moment, and what does the narrator do next?

3. After the pot is caught, what two actions solve the problem?

4. Which detail near the end helps you feel the weather? How does it make the ending more vivid?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence scene about saving an object on a windy day, with a problem, a tense turning point, and a solution. Tell events in order from one point of view, and include dialogue and a vivid sensory detail.

ANSWER KEY # Before the Rain

GRADE 4 · 4.3.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem the wind causes, circle the moment the seedling is most at risk, and number the two actions in the last paragraph that keep the seedlings safe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem starts the plot, and what does Nia say that shows she notices it?	**The wind might tip the pots. Nia says, "The pots will tip."**
2	What is the most tense moment, and what does the narrator do next?	**The pot hangs above the stone path. The narrator catches it against their chest.**
3	After the pot is caught, what two actions solve the problem?	**They move the pots against the garden wall and plant the seedlings in the soil.**
4	Which detail near the end helps you feel the weather? How does it make the ending more vivid?	**"Rain soaked my socks" helps the reader imagine how wet the narrator feels while finishing the planting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The wind tore my red cap from my head as I walked home. It rolled down the sidewalk toward a storm drain. "Stop that cap!" my brother called while cold rain prickled my ears. Just as the cap reached the dark opening, I slid my shoe across the grate and trapped it. My brother held my arm while I bent down and pulled the cap free. I stuffed it into my backpack, and we walked home together.

Accept different wording when answers identify the same plot events and a detail supported by the passage. For the writing task, look for six sentences with events in order, a consistent point of view, dialogue, a sensory detail, and a clear solution.