Thought or Not?

Sort complete sentences from fragments.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

SENTENCE

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

Owls hoot.

FRAGMENT

A fragment leaves a thought unfinished. It may leave you wondering what happened or who did it.

Beneath velvet curtains.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT for each item, then choose two items and explain how you knew where they belong.

1.	The class planted bean seeds.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
2.	Did the kite fly over the fence?	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
3.	After the rain stopped.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
4.	Put your notebook on the shelf.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
5.	A bright red backpack.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
6.	Because the bus was late.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
7.	Ran across the soccer field.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
8.	The parade sounds so loud!	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 about places.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment from the sort and turn it into a complete sentence without removing any words.

ANSWER KEY

Thought or Not?

GRADE 4 · 4.5.W.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The class planted bean seeds.	**SENTENCE**	It tells who did something and what they did.
2	Did the kite fly over the fence?	**SENTENCE**	It asks a complete question.
3	After the rain stopped.	**FRAGMENT**	The opening word makes the reader wait to learn what happened next.
4	Put your notebook on the shelf.	**SENTENCE**	It gives a complete command.
5	A bright red backpack.	**FRAGMENT**	It names something but does not tell what happens.
6	Because the bus was late.	**FRAGMENT**	It gives a reason but leaves the main thought unfinished.
7	Ran across the soccer field.	**FRAGMENT**	It does not say who ran.
8	The parade sounds so loud!	**SENTENCE**	It expresses a complete thought with excitement.

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**: Our library has blue chairs.
- **FRAGMENT**: Near the swimming pool.

Challenge: After the rain stopped, we played outside.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 8 are sentences. Items 3, 5, 6, and 7 are fragments. For the two explanations, look for a reason each chosen item does or does not give a complete thought.