When the Door Flew Open

Trace how a character faces a problem and brings a story to its end.

5.3.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 that starts the story, circle two pieces of dialogue, and number three actions that move the story from danger to safety.

The Greenhouse Door

1 On Saturday morning, I carried tomato seedlings into the school greenhouse while rain tapped the roof. My friend Luis stacked pots beside me. Then a gust shoved the door open, and the loose latch clattered onto the floor. Cold air swept across the tiny plants. "The storm will knock them over," Luis said. I grabbed a tray, but the wind slammed the door against my arm.

2 We moved the trays to the back wall, away from the door. Rain leaked through the open doorway and spread across the floor like a silver snake. "Hold the door while I find a cord," I told Luis. He braced his shoulder against it. Just as I reached the shelf, his shoes slid. The door flew wide, and our tallest tray tipped toward the puddle.

3 I dropped the cord and lunged. My fingertips caught the tray before its stems hit the water. "I've got it!" I shouted. Luis pushed the door shut again, and together we tied its handle to a sturdy hook. At last, the wind stayed outside. We set the rescued tray on a dry bench. Luis grinned at my muddy sleeve. "Those tomatoes owe you lunch," he said.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem starts the story, and how does it put the seedlings at risk?

2. What does Luis say or do that shows he helps the narrator face the problem?

3. Which moment is the climax? What do the characters do afterward to solve the problem?

4. Find a comparison in the story. What does it help you picture?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new 6- to 8-sentence scene in first person about a problem you face somewhere other than a greenhouse. Show events in order, and include dialogue, a sensory detail, a comparison using like or as, a most tense moment, and a solution.

ANSWER KEY

When the Door Flew Open

GRADE 5 · 5.3.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem that starts the story, circle two pieces of dialogue, and number three actions that move the story from danger to safety. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem starts the story, and how does it put the seedlings at risk?	**A gust blows open the greenhouse door after its latch falls off. Wind and rain can knock over or damage the seedlings.**
2	What does Luis say or do that shows he helps the narrator face the problem?	**Luis warns that the storm may knock over the plants, braces the door with his shoulder, and later helps tie it shut.**
3	Which moment is the climax? What do the characters do afterward to solve the problem?	**The climax is when the narrator catches the tipping tray just before it hits the water. Afterward, they tie the door shut and put the tray on a dry bench.**
4	Find a comparison in the story. What does it help you picture?	**The rainwater spreads across the floor "like a silver snake." This helps readers picture a long, winding puddle.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our school science fair, I carried a box of paper stars toward our display table. A sudden draft scattered the stars across the floor, and one slid beneath a rolling cart. "Stop the cart!" I called to Nia. She grabbed its handle, but the wheel kept creeping toward the star. I dove, caught the star just before the wheel reached it, and felt its sharp points press into my palm. Nia held the cart still while I gathered the rest, and we closed the drafty window. Soon our bright stars covered the table like a tiny night sky.

For the marking task, accept any three correctly ordered actions that lead from the open door to the seedlings' safety. For the original scene, check that all requested story elements appear in 6 to 8 sentences.