The Book Swap

Notice how sentence structure changes a scene's pace.

6.5.W.1 "Students will compose simple, compound, and complex sentences to add clarity and variety in their writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one simple sentence, circle one compound sentence, and draw a star beside one complex sentence. Choose three different sentences in each paragraph.

A Box of Stories

1. The box stood beside the school gate. It was empty, but its painted roof glowed bright blue against the gray sidewalk. When the final bell rang, Maya carried a stack of books across the yard. She had asked her classmates to bring stories they had finished reading. A mystery went on the top shelf, and a cookbook slid onto the bottom one. Because the box had a clear door, students could see the covers without opening it. By dismissal, a small crowd had gathered around the new book swap.

2. On Tuesday, dark clouds rolled over the playground. The first drops hit the roof, and Maya hurried to close the door. Although the rain fell hard, the books stayed dry behind the clear panel. One student spotted the cookbook and pointed it out to his friend. They wanted to make soup after school, but neither of them knew which recipe to choose. Maya smiled at their debate. As they walked away with the book, they promised to bring back a story about cooking.

3. By Friday, the shelves looked different. A book about planets sat on the top shelf, and a comic rested beside the mystery. Because students could borrow one book at a time, everyone had a chance to find something new. Maya taped a note inside the door: "Take a book. Bring a book." The message was short, but the choices kept changing. When Maya checked the box before heading home, she found a handwritten soup recipe tucked inside the returned cookbook. She folded it carefully and saved it for her family.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, why is "The box stood beside the school gate" a simple sentence?

2. In paragraph 2, which two complete ideas does "The first drops hit the roof, and Maya hurried to close the door" join?

3. In paragraph 3, why is the sentence beginning "Because students could borrow one book at a time" complex?

4. In paragraph 3, how does "By Friday, the shelves looked different" work with the compound sentence that follows it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a small change in a place you know. Use one simple sentence, one compound sentence joined with and or but, and one complex sentence starting with when, because, or although. Label them S, CP, and CX.

ANSWER KEY # The Book Swap

GRADE 6 · 6.5.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one simple sentence, circle one compound sentence, and draw a star beside one complex sentence. Choose three different sentences in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, why is "The box stood beside the school gate" a simple sentence?	**It has one independent clause, or one complete thought.**
2	In paragraph 2, which two complete ideas does "The first drops hit the roof, and Maya hurried to close the door" join?	**The first drops hit the roof. Maya hurried to close the door.**
3	In paragraph 3, why is the sentence beginning "Because students could borrow one book at a time" complex?	**It joins the dependent clause beginning with "Because" to the independent clause "everyone had a chance to find something new."**
4	In paragraph 3, how does "By Friday, the shelves looked different" work with the compound sentence that follows it?	**The simple sentence announces a change. The compound sentence gives two examples of what is now on the shelves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

S: The garden path was muddy. CP: My brother set down flat stones, and I filled the gaps with gravel. CX: When the rain stopped, we walked to the gate without slipping.

Accept any accurate markings that identify a different simple, compound, and complex sentence in each paragraph. For the writing task, check that each labeled sentence has the requested structure.