Marks That Matter

Read how end marks shape a true-to-life story.

8.5.W.5 "Students will write using correct end mark mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the direct questions, circle every end mark, and put a star beside the sentence that sounds excited so you can see how punctuation signals purpose.

The Clock That Stopped

1. On Saturday, our community center opened a repair table for broken household objects. I brought a small desk clock that had stopped ticking months earlier. Its hands were frozen at 6:18, and dust clung to the glass. Could the clock work again? Across the room, volunteers examined lamps, backpacks, and a squeaky bicycle wheel. One volunteer, Ms. Chen, invited me to watch while she removed the clock's back cover. I wondered whether the missing tick meant the battery had failed.

2. Ms. Chen slid a shallow tray toward me as she lifted the clock's back cover. Keep track of those tiny screws. I placed each one in the tray while she tested the battery, which still had power. Then she adjusted a bent metal contact with a narrow tool. Would that small change be enough? The second hand twitched once, then stopped. We looked again and found a speck of dirt beneath the contact. Ms. Chen brushed it away without scratching the metal.

3. When Ms. Chen returned the battery to its slot, the second hand began to move. The ticking returned! I held the clock near my ear and heard the steady sound that had been missing for months. Was the repair permanent? Ms. Chen could not promise that, but she showed me how to check the contact if the clock stopped again. At home, I set the hands to the correct time and put the clock on my desk. Now its quiet ticking marks the minutes while I do my homework.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the direct question in paragraph 1. What end mark does it use?

2. In paragraph 1, which sentence tells what the narrator wondered without asking a direct question? Why does it end with a period?

3. Copy the command in paragraph 2. Why does its period fit better than an exclamation point?

4. Which sentence in paragraph 3 shows excitement? Explain why its end mark fits.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about finding something unexpected inside a school locker. Include a direct question, a sentence that tells what you wondered without asking directly, a calm command, and an excited exclamation, each with the correct end mark.

ANSWER KEY

Marks That Matter

GRADE 8 · 8.5.W.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the direct questions, circle every end mark, and put a star beside the sentence that sounds excited so you can see how punctuation signals purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the direct question in paragraph 1. What end mark does it use?	**"Could the clock work again?" It uses a question mark.**
2	In paragraph 1, which sentence tells what the narrator wondered without asking a direct question? Why does it end with a period?	**"I wondered whether the missing tick meant the battery had failed." It states what the narrator wondered rather than asking the reader a question.**
3	Copy the command in paragraph 2. Why does its period fit better than an exclamation point?	**"Keep track of those tiny screws." It is a calm direction, not an excited shout.**
4	Which sentence in paragraph 3 shows excitement? Explain why its end mark fits.	**"The ticking returned!" The exclamation point fits the narrator's excitement when the clock starts working.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Why is there a tiny paper boat in my locker? I wondered who had folded it and left it there. Look inside the boat for a clue. A note with my name was tucked inside!

Accept any four-sentence response that fits the locker scenario and uses a question mark for the direct question, periods for the indirect question and calm command, and an exclamation point for excitement.