Who Gets Seen?

How sentence patterns guide a reader's attention

9.5.R.1 "Students will recognize and examine the effect of parallel structure and active and passive voice to convey specific meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two groups of three parallel actions, circle two passive verb phrases, and put a star beside one active sentence to track what each choice emphasizes.

At the Repair Fair

1 At a neighborhood repair fair, the longest line formed beside a table of silent desk lamps. A sign asked visitors to bring a broken object, describe its problem, and stay to watch the repair. That three-part request made the event feel less like a drop-off service and more like a lesson. When Maya arrived, she carried a lamp whose switch clicked but whose bulb stayed dark. Behind the table, volunteers sorted loose screws into jars. Several cracked shades were set aside near a box marked REUSE. Maya wondered whether her lamp would join them.

2 One volunteer examined Maya's lamp, traced the cord, and tested the socket. Each movement was small, but Maya could see how one clue led to another. The cord was unplugged before the back panel was opened. Inside, a wire had slipped free of a metal contact. The volunteer secured the wire while Maya held a flashlight steady. When the lamp lit up, nearby visitors turned from their own projects to look. Nobody cheered loudly, but several people smiled and went back to work.

3 By closing time, repaired objects covered the front table: lamps, radios, and a small fan. Some items could not be fixed, but their usable parts were saved for future repairs. Maya wrote a note for the next visitor: "Ask questions, test ideas, and share what you learn." The note echoed the sign at the entrance, but it sounded more personal now. Maya had arrived hoping someone would fix her lamp. She left knowing how to check a loose wire, and she wanted another visitor to feel that same shift from watching to helping.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The entrance sign gives visitors three parallel actions. What does this pattern suggest visitors will do at the fair?

2. Why might the writer use three parallel verbs to describe the volunteer's first actions with Maya's lamp?

3. In "The volunteer secured the wire while Maya held a flashlight steady," who does the active voice bring into focus, and why does that matter?

4. Compare "their usable parts were saved for future repairs" with "Maya wrote a note for the next visitor." How does each voice direct your attention?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a different community event. Write three sentences: one with three parallel actions in active voice, one in passive voice, and one explaining how the two choices direct a reader's attention.

ANSWER KEY

Who Gets Seen?

GRADE 9 · 9.5.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two groups of three parallel actions, circle two passive verb phrases, and put a star beside one active sentence to track what each choice emphasizes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The entrance sign gives visitors three parallel actions. What does this pattern suggest visitors will do at the fair?	**Visitors will take part in the repair by bringing an object, explaining its problem, and watching the work.**
2	Why might the writer use three parallel verbs to describe the volunteer's first actions with Maya's lamp?	**The matching verbs present the examination, tracing, and testing as a clear sequence of steps.**
3	In “The volunteer secured the wire while Maya held a flashlight steady,” who does the active voice bring into focus, and why does that matter?	**It brings both the volunteer and Maya into focus as people contributing to the repair.**
4	Compare “their usable parts were saved for future repairs” with “Maya wrote a note for the next visitor.” How does each voice direct your attention?	**The passive phrase focuses on the parts and their future use without naming who saved them. The active sentence focuses on Maya as the person who wrote the note.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the school swap, students sorted books, labeled boxes, and welcomed visitors. By noon, every mystery novel was claimed. The first sentence highlights students' work, while the second puts attention on the books instead of the people who took them.

Accept other supported explanations of how parallel actions create a sequence or how active and passive voice shift attention. For Part 3, check that the student writes exactly three sentences and explains both choices.