Museum Mix-Ups

Find and fix modifiers in a pop-up museum story

9.5.W.3 "Students will recognize and correct misplaced and dangling modifiers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four modifier phrases that seem to describe the wrong person or thing. Draw an arrow from each phrase to the person or object it should describe.

A Museum for One Day

1 On Saturday, the neighborhood history club turned an empty storefront into a pop-up museum. Neighbors brought objects that held small stories: a bus token, a bent trumpet mouthpiece, and a recipe card stained with berry juice. Nico handed a sandwich to the volunteer wrapped in wax paper. The volunteer set the lunch aside before helping another donor. Across the room, Lena recorded each donor's name and the story behind each object. By noon, the club had filled three shelves, but the most surprising donation had not yet arrived.

2 At one o'clock, Omar arrived with a shoebox of photographs from his grandfather's attic. The curator showed a photo to the students taken at dawn. In the picture, workers stood beside a newly opened train station, their shadows stretching across the platform. Omar said his grandfather had spent years collecting images of places that no longer looked the same. While the students compared the station with their own memories, Lena lifted the next donation from the floor. Carrying a box of donated maps, the hallway lights flickered above Lena. She paused until the lights steadied.

3 By late afternoon, the club faced a final puzzle: dozens of postcards had lost their labels. Some showed familiar streets before the sidewalks were widened; others pictured stores that had closed decades earlier. Omar spread the postcards across a table and checked the dates on their backs. After sorting the old postcards, a rare stamp caught Omar's eye. He asked a neighbor who collected stamps to look at it, but she could not identify its origin without a closer view. Instead of guessing, the club wrote a temporary label and invited visitors to share what they knew.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what was wrapped in wax paper? Rewrite Nico's sentence so the phrase describes the right thing.

2. In paragraph 2, what was taken at dawn? Rewrite the curator's sentence to make that clear.

3. In paragraph 2, who was carrying the box of maps? Rewrite the sentence about the lights so its opening phrase describes that person.

4. In paragraph 3, who sorted the postcards? Rewrite the sentence about the stamp so its opening phrase describes that person.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about an object someone discovers at a school event. Include one misplaced modifier and one dangling modifier, then rewrite both sentences so each modifier clearly describes the right person or thing.

ANSWER KEY

Museum Mix-Ups

GRADE 9 · 9.5.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the four modifier phrases that seem to describe the wrong person or thing. Draw an arrow from each phrase to the person or object it should describe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what was wrapped in wax paper? Rewrite Nico's sentence so the phrase describes the right thing.	**The sandwich. Nico handed the volunteer a sandwich wrapped in wax paper.**
2	In paragraph 2, what was taken at dawn? Rewrite the curator's sentence to make that clear.	**The photo. The curator showed the students a photo taken at dawn.**
3	In paragraph 2, who was carrying the box of maps? Rewrite the sentence about the lights so its opening phrase describes that person.	**Lena. Carrying a box of donated maps, Lena saw the hallway lights flicker above her.**
4	In paragraph 3, who sorted the postcards? Rewrite the sentence about the stamp so its opening phrase describes that person.	**Omar. After sorting the old postcards, Omar spotted a rare stamp.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Scene: At the school fair, Tessa found a silver key beneath a table. She showed a key to her friend covered in blue paint. Running toward the lost-and-found desk, the key slipped from Tessa's hand.
Corrections: She showed her friend a key covered in blue paint. Running toward the lost-and-found desk, Tessa dropped the key.

Accept corrections that preserve the passage's meaning and place each modifier next to its intended subject. For the open task, the three-sentence scene must contain both types of error, and the student must correct both.