Sentence Detectives

Spot fragments and run-ons

3.LF.37.a "Identify and correct sentence fragments and run-on sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FRAGMENT

A fragment does not tell a complete thought, even if it has a period.

Under purple clouds.

RUN-ON

A run-on pushes two complete thoughts together without the punctuation needed between them.

Fireflies flicker crickets chirp.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle Fragment or Run-on for each item, then choose one of each in Part 2 and explain how you knew.

1.	After the bell rang.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
2.	The puppy with the red collar.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
3.	Mia packed her lunch Dad filled her bottle.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
4.	At the edge of the pond.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
5.	Our class planted seeds we watered them.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
6.	Ava found a shell she showed it to Ben.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
7.	Because the gate was locked.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON
8.	The bus stopped the children climbed aboard.	FRAGMENT RUN-ON

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one of each in Part 2 and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new fragment and one new run-on.

FRAGMENT _____

RUN-ON _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment and one run-on from Part 1. Fix the fragment by making it one complete sentence, and fix the run-on by making it two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After the bell rang.	**FRAGMENT**	The word after leaves the thought unfinished.
2	The puppy with the red collar.	**FRAGMENT**	The words name a puppy but do not tell what it does.
3	Mia packed her lunch Dad filled her bottle.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation between them.
4	At the edge of the pond.	**FRAGMENT**	The words tell where but do not give a complete thought.
5	Our class planted seeds we watered them.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation between them.
6	Ava found a shell she showed it to Ben.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation between them.
7	Because the gate was locked.	**FRAGMENT**	The word because leaves the thought unfinished.
8	The bus stopped the children climbed aboard.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation between them.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one of each in Part 2 and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FRAGMENT**: Near the noisy waterfall.
- **RUN-ON**: Tariq drew a kite his sister colored it.

Challenge: 2. The puppy with the red collar barked. 3. Mia packed her lunch. Dad filled her bottle.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 2 needs an action and item 3 has two complete thoughts with no punctuation between them. Other accurate explanations and corrections are acceptable.