

Two Threads, One Reveal

Examine how parallel episodes and delayed information shape a mystery.

12.RL.1.B “Examine how authors structure a text and order events within it through parallel episodes, subplots, and conflicts, and explain how they create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline and number the slip, fibers and register entry in discovery order. Circle Malik’s conversation with his grandfather in paragraph 2.

The Empty Case

- ① An hour before the museum opened, Elena found the compass case empty. She was preparing the exhibit for visiting donors; Malik, another student assistant, had gone to ask his grandfather, the retired curator, about a missing label. Beside the case lay a transfer slip marked T6, with its lower half torn away. Through the loading-dock window Elena could see six loan trucks, labeled T1 through T6. She called Malik, but he did not answer. If the compass had left on a truck, she thought, the exhibit would open with an empty case.
- ② In the office, Malik held the missing half of the slip, which his grandfather had just handed him. “I moved the compass,” the old man admitted, “and I should have told the director before I did.” Malik reached for his phone. His grandfather asked him to wait while he explained; he feared that one mistake would erase years of careful work. Malik stayed, torn between protecting him and alerting Elena. Meanwhile, Elena found blue packing fibers caught in the case hinge and more along the corridor toward the loading dock. She hurried to the transfer register beside the dock door. The matching entry read: “T6: Treatment table 6; retained on site.” The trucks’ labels belonged to a different numbering system.

- ③ Before Elena could search for the treatment room, Malik arrived at the dock with his grandfather and the signed half-slip. The old man had noticed the compass display stand wobbling and carried the compass in blue protective padding to a worktable until the stand could be replaced. The treatment room opened off the same corridor; the fibers did not prove a trip to a truck. The compass had never left the building. Elena's relief hardened when she saw how long Malik had held the slip. Together they took it to the director, leaving the grandfather to explain why he had acted without notice. The empty case could be refilled; the broken trust would take longer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① How do Elena's search and Malik's conversation form parallel episodes? Explain their effect on tension.

- ② How does Malik's conflict affect the order in which Elena receives information? Use two details.

- ③ How do the three clues build and overturn Elena's inference? Explain why the earlier clues fit the reveal.

- ④ If the complete transfer record appeared in paragraph 1, how would mystery change? What tension could remain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six- to eight-sentence mystery outline with two parallel episodes, a character conflict and three ordered clues. Make the reveal explain the earlier clues. After the outline, add one sentence explaining how your information order creates an effect.

Outline and explain the structure

Alternate the two episodes. Keep each character's knowledge consistent and give the reveal a clear basis in the clues.

[illegible]

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline and number the slip, fibers and register entry in discovery order. Circle Malik's conversation with his grandfather in paragraph 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Elena's search and Malik's conversation form parallel episodes? Explain their effect on tension.	They occur simultaneously in separate places. Knowing Malik has withheld information, readers anticipate the two threads meeting.
2	How does Malik's conflict affect the order in which Elena receives information? Use two details.	He reaches for his phone but stays to protect his grandfather. This delays the explanation while Elena pursues the truck inference.
3	How do the three clues build and overturn Elena's inference? Explain why the earlier clues fit the reveal.	T6 and fibers suggest shipment. The register identifies a treatment table; protective padding explains fibers along the shared corridor.
4	If the complete transfer record appeared in paragraph 1, how would mystery change? What tension could remain?	It resolves the location mystery early. Malik's divided loyalty and the grandfather's unauthorized action could still threaten trust.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Outline: While Nia seeks a missing crown, Tomas argues with his aunt about reporting a fallen prop shelf. Nia finds an empty REPAIRS box and fears the crown was shipped away. Tomas learns his aunt moved it, but she asks him to keep the accident secret. Nia follows purple fibers toward an exit beside a sewing room. As Tomas decides to speak, Nia finds a work order locating the crown and its purple wrapping in that room. They reunite there beside the wrapped crown. Together, they report the accident.

Effect: Alternation makes readers anticipate disclosure, while the delayed work order explains the earlier clues and resolves the location mystery.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Check two parallel threads, conflict, three coherent clues and their effects. Model: seven outline sentences plus one explanation. Accept other supported responses.