

Greenhouse After Dark

Study suspense, then write and revise your own first-person narrative.

ELA.7.C.1.2 "Write personal or fictional narratives using narrative techniques, a recognizable point of view, precise words and phrases, and figurative language."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three precise words or phrases that build the setting or action, circle two examples of figurative language, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events that build suspense or move the plot.

The Silver Shape

- ① Rain tapped the greenhouse roof as I locked up after science club. Through the fogged glass, a silver shape slid between the tomato beds. My key froze above the lock. I told myself it was only a watering can, yet the shape scraped against a tray, making a thin, nervous squeal. The greenhouse smelled of wet soil and crushed basil. I stepped inside, holding my phone like a tiny lantern, while shadows gathered around my shoes.
- ② I should have called the custodian, but curiosity pulled me forward. At the far bench, the silver shape twitched again. I lifted a leaf and found a soaked kitten tangled in a strip of reflective gift ribbon. Its green eyes flashed, then narrowed at me. "Easy," I whispered, although my own voice shook. The ribbon had caught on a pot, pinning one small paw. Carefully, I loosened the knot. The kitten sprang free and knocked over a packet of seeds.
- ③ Then the kitten bolted toward the open door. I lunged, but my sneaker skidded on a puddle. Outside, rain hammered the pavement, a drumbeat that swallowed every sound. The kitten paused beside the fence, its ribbon shining like a signal flag. I crouched and held out the seed packet. After one long breath, it padded back to me. I wrapped it in my hoodie and carried it to the office, where the custodian found a box and called an animal shelter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What point of view does the narrator use? Give one word or phrase from the passage that proves your answer.

- 2 Name any two events that build suspense before the narrator identifies the kitten. Explain how one delays the discovery or raises a question.

- 3 What does the phrase “rain hammered the pavement, a drumbeat that swallowed every sound” suggest about the storm?

- 4 How does the narrator solve the main problem? Include at least two actions in the correct order.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 100-130 word first-person narrative about an unexpected problem while helping at a school event. Include a clear beginning, middle, and ending; dialogue or a moment of slowed pacing; two precise sensory details; and one simile or metaphor. Use the plan and draft spaces, then revise in place.

Plan the scene

Jot your setting, unexpected problem, and resolution. Choose one moment to slow down or reveal through dialogue.

Draft and revise

Write your complete 100-130 word narrative here. Then underline two sensory details, circle your figurative language, and improve one vague word or rushed moment. Keep first-person point of view consistent.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three precise words or phrases that build the setting or action, circle two examples of figurative language, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events that build suspense or move the plot. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point of view does the narrator use? Give one word or phrase from the passage that proves your answer.	First-person point of view. The narrator uses "I," such as "I stepped inside."
2	Name any two events that build suspense before the narrator identifies the kitten. Explain how one delays the discovery or raises a question.	Accept any two: the shape slides between beds, scrapes a tray with a squeal, or twitches at the bench. These actions keep its identity uncertain. Other supported pre-discovery events are acceptable.
3	What does the phrase "rain hammered the pavement, a drumbeat that swallowed every sound" suggest about the storm?	It suggests the rain was loud and forceful, making it hard to hear other sounds.
4	How does the narrator solve the main problem? Include at least two actions in the correct order.	The narrator loosens the ribbon from the kitten's paw, then uses the seed packet to bring it back, wraps it in a hoodie, and takes it to the office.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

While setting chairs for the school concert, I heard a sharp snap behind the stage. A blue curtain sagged, and a hook rolled across the dusty floor. My hands turned cold. A loose cord dangled beside the light stand like a restless snake. I stepped back and called, "Ms. Chen, something broke!" She asked us to clear the area while she checked the curtain. I held the door and guided Maya away from the fallen hook. For a moment, only the squeak of my shoes broke the silence. When the custodian secured the curtain, we finished the chairs. As the first families arrived, my heartbeat finally slowed.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept varied suspense events in question 2 if they precede identification of the kitten. Evaluate the student's complete narrative for coherent events, consistent first person, a narrative technique, precise detail and figurative language. The model meets the requested word range. Planning notes do not count toward the draft length; revisions may be made in the margins or between lines.