

Story Paths

Compare story order with event order.

8.7.C “analyze non-linear plot development such as flashbacks, foreshadowing, subplots, and parallel plot structures and compare it to linear plot development; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three flashback sentences in paragraph 2. Circle the return-to-present signal. In the margins, label Nia's present-time actions N and Mr. Vale's V.

The Missing Cue Sheet

- ① At 6:10 p.m., ten minutes before the school play, Nia opened the stage manager's folder. The final cue sheet was missing. Without it, she did not know when to ring the bell that ended the last scene. A blue tab peeked from the music binder beside the sound desk, but she looked past it and hurried to search a prop shelf in the wings. At the same time, Mr. Vale searched the rehearsal room for a spare copy.
- ② Two weeks earlier, Nia had stayed after rehearsal to organize papers with the director. They had put a spare cue sheet behind the final song in the music binder. The director added a blue tab so anyone could find the spare copy. Back in the present, Nia remembered the flash of blue beside the sound desk and turned toward it. Meanwhile, Mr. Vale found only an outdated draft in the rehearsal room; its final scene was different.
- ③ Nia opened the music binder to the blue tab and found the current cue sheet. While she checked the last scene, Mr. Vale returned with the old draft, hoping it might help. They met at the sound desk and compared the two versions. Nia showed him the corrected bell cue, and he took the spare sheet to the wings while she stayed at the controls. When the final line was spoken, Nia rang the bell. The small blue tab had led her to the information they needed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Where does the flashback begin and end? What does it explain about Nia's next action?

2 Which detail in paragraph 1 foreshadows the solution? Explain its later role.

3 What parallel actions occur during the search, and where do they join?

4 How would a chronological version begin? Explain one effect of revealing the earlier event in a flashback instead.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence story outline in prose. Begin with a present problem and an early clue. Include a clearly signaled flashback, a parallel present-time action, and a resolution that uses the clue. Then explain how a chronological telling would change the reader's experience.

Four-sentence story outline

Write four complete sentences in story order, with clear time signals and a clue that matters later.

Compare the order

In two sentences, explain where the chronological version would begin and how moving the flashback information changes the reader's experience.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three flashback sentences in paragraph 2. Circle the return-to-present signal. In the margins, label Nia's present-time actions N and Mr. Vale's V. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where does the flashback begin and end? What does it explain about Nia's next action?	Paragraph 2, first three sentences: Two weeks earlier through spare copy. Learning the spare sheet's location explains Nia's return to the binder.
2	Which detail in paragraph 1 foreshadows the solution? Explain its later role.	The blue tab peeking from the binder is a clue. It later marks the spare current cue sheet that Nia finds.
3	What parallel actions occur during the search, and where do they join?	Nia searches backstage while Mr. Vale searches the rehearsal room. They compare their cue sheets at the sound desk.
4	How would a chronological version begin? Explain one effect of revealing the earlier event in a flashback instead.	A linear telling begins with filing the spare two weeks earlier. The flashback delays that information until the present problem, explaining Nia's response.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As the club fair opened, Taro searched for the price list and noticed a red envelope beneath a pile of flyers. The day before, he had watched Maya seal the updated prices in an envelope of that color. Back at the fair, he lifted the flyers while Maya searched the supply cupboard for another copy. Taro opened the red envelope, found the list, and called Maya back to the table.

A chronological telling would start with Maya sealing the envelope the day before. Readers would know what it contained before Taro began searching, so his discovery would be less surprising.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept supported interpretations. Assess clear chronology, connected parallel action and a clue that pays off.