Lantern Parade Mystery

Notice how a narrative opening sets the scene and introduces people.

4W3.a "Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the narrator and each named character. Underline details that tell where and when the story begins because these details establish the situation.

Before the Parade

1 Late on Saturday afternoon, I hurried to the community garden with my older brother, Mateo. Our class had promised to carry paper lanterns in the town's evening parade. Rain tapped the garden shed roof, and puddles covered the path. Ms. Chen, our teacher, waited beside a wagon full of supplies. She looked worried as we arrived.

2 I was in charge of the blue lantern, the one I had painted with silver stars. Mateo lifted the wagon cover and counted the lanterns. "We have eleven," he said quietly. "There should be twelve." I felt my stomach tighten. The parade would begin in two hours, and my lantern was not in the wagon.

3 Ms. Chen pointed toward the greenhouse. "The wind may have carried something there," she said. Mateo grabbed an umbrella, and I followed him through the wet garden. At the greenhouse door, I heard a soft scrape against the glass. I held my breath and reached for the handle, hoping the missing lantern was inside before the parade began.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the narrator of this story? How do you know?

2. What situation is established in the first paragraph? Include the time, place, and event.

3. Name two characters introduced in the first paragraph besides the narrator.

4. What detail tells the reader what the narrator and classmates are supposed to do later that day?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence opening for a new narrative. Establish when and where the story begins, introduce yourself as the narrator, and introduce at least two other characters.

ANSWER KEY

Lantern Parade Mystery

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the narrator and each named character. Underline details that tell where and when the story begins because these details establish the situation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the narrator of this story? How do you know?	**The narrator is an unnamed student in the class. The story uses the word "I," and the narrator says that the blue lantern is theirs.**
2	What situation is established in the first paragraph? Include the time, place, and event.	**Late on Saturday afternoon at the community garden, the class is preparing to carry paper lanterns in the town's evening parade.**
3	Name two characters introduced in the first paragraph besides the narrator.	**Mateo and Ms. Chen.**
4	What detail tells the reader what the narrator and classmates are supposed to do later that day?	**Their class had promised to carry paper lanterns in the town's evening parade.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, I waited at the school kitchen with my cousin Nia. We were helping Mr. Ruiz pack sandwiches for the shelter's dinner. Outside, snow covered the bus lane, and the delivery van was late. Nia checked the clock while Mr. Ruiz looked at the empty boxes. I pulled on my coat when he asked us to find another way to deliver the food.

Accept equivalent evidence-based answers for the passage questions. For the narrative opening, accept any five sentences that clearly establish a time and place and introduce a first-person narrator plus at least two other characters.