Static to Song

Read a model narrative for sequence, detail, and change.

8W3 "Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details and clear sequencing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that create a sensory picture, circle the sentence that states Maya's goal, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three actions that move the event forward.

The Porch Radio

1. On Saturday morning, Maya wheeled her grandfather's rusted radio onto the porch, hoping to fix it before his visit. Rain tapped the railing, and the air smelled like wet pine. When she turned the tuning knob, only static hissed from the speaker. "Try again," she whispered, though her fingers had already begun to tremble. She spread the tiny screws across a towel and checked the loose wire her grandfather had pointed out last summer.

2. First, Maya pressed the wire back into its metal clip, but the radio stayed silent. A gust shoved rain across the porch, soaking the towel and sending two screws rolling toward the steps. Maya lunged after them, scraping her knee on the rough boards. She almost carried the radio inside, then noticed a thin green film on the battery contacts. Remembering her grandfather's careful hands, she dried the contacts with the corner of her shirt.

3. By noon, the clouds had lifted, and sunlight flashed on the wet railing. Maya inserted fresh batteries, held her breath, and turned the knob. A trumpet burst from the speaker, followed by the announcer's warm voice. At that moment, her grandfather's truck rumbled into the driveway. Maya met him at the gate with the radio tucked under her arm. When he heard the music, his tired face opened into a smile, and Maya forgot her scraped knee.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph establish both the setting and Maya's goal? Use two details from the passage.

2. What three actions does Maya take in paragraph 2? List them in order.

3. Choose two descriptive details from the second paragraph that build tension. Explain how they make Maya's problem feel urgent.

4. How does the final paragraph show that Maya reached her goal and changed from the beginning of the event?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one 7-to-9-sentence narrative paragraph about solving a small problem before an important moment. Include a clear setting and goal, a complication, at least three actions in order, one sensory detail, and either dialogue or a thought. End by showing the outcome.

Static to Song

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that create a sensory picture, circle the sentence that states Maya's goal, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three actions that move the event forward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph establish both the setting and Maya's goal? Use two details from the passage.	**The action takes place on a rainy porch on Saturday morning. Maya wants to fix her grandfather's rusted radio before he visits.**
2	What three actions does Maya take in paragraph 2? List them in order.	**She presses the wire into its clip, chases the rolling screws, and dries the green film from the battery contacts.**
3	Choose two descriptive details from the second paragraph that build tension. Explain how they make Maya's problem feel urgent.	**Details may include the gust soaking the towel, screws rolling toward the steps, and Maya scraping her knee. These details add obstacles and show that time and rain may ruin her work.**
4	How does the final paragraph show that Maya reached her goal and changed from the beginning of the event?	**The radio plays music when Maya turns the knob, so she reaches her goal. Her grandfather smiles, and Maya forgets her scraped knee, showing pride and relief instead of earlier nervousness.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After school, I found my science fair poster curled beneath a leaking classroom window. The room smelled of dust and wet paper, and the bus would arrive in twenty minutes. “Do not panic,” I told myself as I carried the poster to a dry table. First, I blotted the puddles with paper towels and peeled the damp corners apart. Next, I asked the art teacher for a hair dryer and held it above the wrinkled paper. The warm air hummed while the charts slowly flattened. Finally, I taped the poster to a piece of cardboard so it would stay straight. When the bus doors folded open outside, I ran through the hall holding a dry, sturdy poster against my chest.

Accept answers that accurately cite or paraphrase the passage. For the narrative, look for a coherent sequence, relevant sensory detail, a complication, and an ending that shows the result.