# Party Plans Change

Compare three stories about celebrations that nearly go wrong.

**3.RL.9** "Compare and contrast the central message, themes, settings, and plots of stories about the same or similar topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Box the setting, underline the problem, and circle the solution in each story. Use your marks to compare what happens and what each story teaches.

### Three Celebrations

1. **Flags for the Fair.** At the town park, Nia hung paper flags for the spring fair. A gust tore the string from her hands. Flags flew across the grass. Nia could not gather them before the fair opened. She asked two children to help. One held the string while the others tied the flags back on. Together, they finished just as the first families arrived.

2. **The Missing Crown.** In the school gym, Omar checked the costumes before the class play. The gold paper crown was gone. Omar remembered moving it under a bench while sweeping, but he felt afraid to tell the teacher. At last, he spoke up. The class searched under the bench and found it. The play began on time, and Omar learned that telling the truth can help everyone.

3. **A Rainy Picnic.** At the river picnic area, Mei set out cups for a neighborhood party. Rain suddenly soaked the picnic tables. Several families had no dry place to sit. Mei's family had a large tent, so she invited the families inside. Others brought food to share. The party moved under the tent, where everyone ate and talked while rain tapped on the roof.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the settings of Nia's story and Omar's story different?

2. How are the problems in Nia's and Mei's stories alike? How does each character solve the problem?

3. What message do Nia's and Mei's stories share? Give one detail from each story that supports your answer.

4. How is the message of Omar's story different from the message of Mei's story?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence story about preparing for a celebration in a new setting. Show a problem and how it is solved. Then write one sentence naming a story above that shares your story's message and explaining why.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 3 · 3.RL.9**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Box the setting, underline the problem, and circle the solution in each story. Use your marks to compare what happens and what each story teaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How are the settings of Nia's story and Omar's story different? | **Nia's story takes place at a town park, while Omar's takes place in a school gym.** |
| 2 | How are the problems in Nia's and Mei's stories alike? How does each character solve the problem? | **Weather disrupts both celebrations. Nia asks children to help put the flags back up, while Mei invites families into her family's tent.** |
| 3 | What message do Nia's and Mei's stories share? Give one detail from each story that supports your answer. | **Helping others can solve problems. Children help Nia fix the flags, and Mei shares her family's tent with other families.** |
| 4 | How is the message of Omar's story different from the message of Mei's story? | **Omar's story shows that telling the truth can help others. Mei's story shows that sharing what you have can help others.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the library, Jo was setting up a book party when a stack of bookmarks spilled onto the floor. Jo asked two visitors to help, and they sorted the bookmarks before guests arrived. Everyone got a bookmark because they worked together. My story shares the message of *Flags for the Fair* because both show that asking for help can solve a problem.

Accept other supported comparisons of the stories' messages. For Your Turn, look for a new setting, a problem and solution, and a clear link between the student's story and one of the three stories.