The Boat Race

Notice how a story begins and how each event leads to the next.

3.W.3.a "Establish a situation and/or setting; introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that tell when and where the story begins, circle the first "I" and the first "Nia," and number the race starting, the boat getting stuck, and the boat being freed in order.

The Boat That Got Stuck

1. On Saturday morning, I met my friend Nia beside the shallow creek at Pine Park. We had folded paper boats from old grocery lists. A flat rock made a perfect launch spot, and the footbridge marked our finish line. Nia set her boat in the water first. I placed mine beside it and counted, "One, two, three!" The current carried both boats forward.

2. Just before the bridge, my boat spun into a patch of reeds near the bank. Nia's boat sailed past. I hurried along the path, but my boat stayed stuck. I found a long fallen twig and leaned out from the dry bank. The twig was too short. Then Nia pointed to a bend in the path where we could reach the reeds without stepping into the water.

3. We followed the bend and knelt beside the reeds. Nia held my sleeve while I nudged the boat free with the twig. It wobbled into the current, soggy but still floating. We raced along the path and watched it slip under the footbridge. Nia's boat had finished first, but I cheered for mine as it drifted through at last.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What details tell you where and when the story begins?

2. Who tells the story, and which other character is introduced at the start?

3. Put these events in order: the boat is freed, the boats begin racing, the children move to a bend in the path, the boat gets stuck.

4. Why do the children move to the bend in the path before freeing the boat?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write five or six sentences about a small problem during an activity. Begin by telling when and where it happens and who is there, then show what happens next and how the problem is solved.

ANSWER KEY

The Boat Race

GRADE 3 · 3.W.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell when and where the story begins, circle the first "I" and the first "Nia," and number the race starting, the boat getting stuck, and the boat being freed in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details tell you where and when the story begins?	**It begins on Saturday morning beside the shallow creek at Pine Park.**
2	Who tells the story, and which other character is introduced at the start?	**The person who says "I" tells the story and introduces their friend Nia.**
3	Put these events in order: the boat is freed, the boats begin racing, the children move to a bend in the path, the boat gets stuck.	**1. The boats begin racing. 2. The boat gets stuck. 3. The children move to a bend in the path. 4. The boat is freed.**
4	Why do the children move to the bend in the path before freeing the boat?	**The twig is too short from their first spot, but they can reach the reeds from the bend without stepping into the water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On a windy afternoon, I met my cousin Ben at the playground to fly a kite. As the kite rose, its string came loose from the spool. The kite landed on the grass near the slide. We ran over, and I held the spool while Ben tied the string back on. This time, Ben kept a tight grip on the spool, and our kite rose above the swings.

Accept answers that identify the setting and first-person narrator using details from the passage. For the writing task, look for an introduced setting and characters, followed by events that lead naturally from a problem to its solution.