A Dragon Detour

Read how a small problem becomes a story.

3.W.3 "Write narratives (e.g. story, poetry, drama) to develop real and imagined experiences or events using descriptive details, and clear event sequences. Establish a situation and/or setting; introduce a narrator and/or characters..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that show event order, and circle phrases that show how the narrator feels.

The Dragon's New Tail

1. On Friday morning, our class lined up for the school parade. I held the head of our long paper dragon, and my friend Bo carried its tail. The hall smelled like crayons and fresh paint. Just as the music began, Bo gasped. The dragon's tail had torn away from the body. I felt my cheeks grow hot. Everyone behind us was ready to march.

2. First, I asked Bo to hold the torn pieces together. I searched my pockets, but I had no tape. "What can we use?" Bo whispered. Then I spotted the red ribbon tied around my wrist. It was left from wrapping a gift. I pulled it loose and tied the two paper pieces together. The ribbon slipped, and the tail sagged again.

3. Next, Bo held the tail steady while I made a second, tighter knot. "Try it now," I said. He lifted the tail, and it stayed in place. At last, we stepped into the parade. The ribbon waved like a bright flame as we marched. I was still a little nervous, but I smiled when Bo made the dragon dance past the principal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the beginning tell you where the story takes place and what goes wrong?

2. What does Bo's question, “What can we use?” show about how he responds to the torn tail?

3. What happens after the ribbon slips? Which word helps you follow the order of events?

4. How do the narrator's feelings change from the beginning to the end? Use details from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a story of five or six sentences about a time you and someone else solved a small problem, real or imagined. Include a setting, dialogue, how you felt, words that show event order, and an ending.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that show event order, and circle phrases that show how the narrator feels. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the beginning tell you where the story takes place and what goes wrong?	**The class is in a school hall, lined up for a parade. The paper dragon's tail tears away just as the music begins.**
2	What does Bo's question, "What can we use?" show about how he responds to the torn tail?	**Bo wants to find something that will help fix the tail.**
3	What happens after the ribbon slips? Which word helps you follow the order of events?	**Bo holds the tail steady while the narrator ties a tighter knot. The word "Next" signals this event.**
4	How do the narrator's feelings change from the beginning to the end? Use details from the story.	**At first, the narrator's cheeks grow hot when the tail tears. At the end, the narrator is still a little nervous but smiles as the dragon dances.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday, I built a tiny fort in my living room with my sister, June. Suddenly, our blanket slipped off the chairs, and I felt upset. "Let's use the heavy books," June said. First, we set a book on each corner of the blanket. Then we crawled inside and listened to rain tap the window. By bedtime, our fort was still standing, and I felt proud.

Accept answers that cite accurate details from the passage, even if students use different words. For the story, look for a clear problem and solution, an ordered sequence, dialogue, a feeling, and a conclusion.