The Brightest Patch

Read a story that moves between past and present.

4.RL.10.a "Read and comprehend grade-appropriate texts with increasing challenge in text difficulty and complexity (e.g., layout, text structure, language/literary features, knowledge demands)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number Grandpa's lesson, Mara's repair, and the successful flight in the order they happen. Underline the words that help you spot when the story moves back to the past.

A Patch for the Sky

1 The kite hung from the fence like a trapped bird. Mara had built it for Saturday's park festival, but a sudden gust had torn its blue paper. Her little brother, Leo, held the broken frame while neighbors carried bright kites toward the hill. "We can still fix it," he said. Mara looked at the clock above the park gate. The festival would begin in ten minutes.

2 Last winter, Grandpa had shown Mara how to mend a kite. He had folded thin paper over a tear and brushed paste along the edges. "A patch can be part of the picture," he had told her. Now Mara found a scrap of yellow paper in her pocket. It was just large enough to cover the hole, but Leo held the frame steady as she folded the scrap over the rip.

3 The yellow patch made the blue kite look as if it carried a small sun. Mara and Leo ran uphill, but the first gust sent the kite tumbling. Mara's shoulders sank. Then Leo noticed that one string had wrapped around the frame. Mara freed it and tried again. This time the kite climbed above the others, and Mara grinned. From the ground, the patch looked like a piece of sunlight borrowed by the sky.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the story move back to last winter before showing Mara repair the kite?

2. Grandpa says, "A patch can be part of the picture." How does the kite's final flight show what he means?

3. How does Mara's mood change during the two tries at flying the kite? Use a detail from each try.

4. Why does the kite tumble on the first try but rise on the second?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about what Leo might tell Grandpa after the festival. Include two details from the story and one new comparison that shows how Leo felt.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number Grandpa's lesson, Mara's repair, and the successful flight in the order they happen. Underline the words that help you spot when the story moves back to the past. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the story move back to last winter before showing Mara repair the kite?	**The scene from last winter shows that Grandpa taught Mara how to patch a kite, which explains how she knows what to do now.**
2	Grandpa says, "A patch can be part of the picture." How does the kite's final flight show what he means?	**The yellow patch covers the tear and makes the kite look as if it carries a small sun.**
3	How does Mara's mood change during the two tries at flying the kite? Use a detail from each try.	**She feels disappointed when the kite tumbles and her shoulders sink. She feels happy when it climbs above the others and she grins.**
4	Why does the kite tumble on the first try but rise on the second?	**A string is wrapped around the frame on the first try. Mara frees it before trying again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Grandpa, Mara used yellow paper to patch the kite, just as you taught her. When the first flight failed, I spotted a string caught on the frame, and Mara freed it. As our kite rose, my heart bounced like a rubber ball.

For the marking job, accept 1 for Grandpa's lesson, 2 for Mara's repair, and 3 for the successful flight. Students should underline "Last winter"; they may also mark "Now" to show the return to the present.