A Different Ending

Notice how a story's ending grows from its events.

4.W.3.e "Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events (when appropriate to the genre)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two sentences that end the story. Circle two earlier details that help those sentences make sense.

The Blue Square

1. On Monday, our class began a paper mosaic for the library wall. We glued colored squares onto a large sheet to make a picture of our town. I carried the only shiny blue square in my pocket. I wanted it to be the pond at the center, where everyone would see it. When I set it down, Mara pointed to a blank strip beside the houses.

2. The strip was our river, but the blue paper had run out. Mara had made tiny paper fish, and without water they looked as if they were flying. I looked at my shiny square, then at the empty space. One square would not fill the river, so I tore mine into narrow pieces. Mara fitted the pieces between the houses while I glued the fish beside them.

3. When we hung the mosaic, the river wound past the school and the library. My shiny pieces caught the light, but no one called them mine. Mara grinned when a younger student pointed to the fish and followed the river with his finger. I had wanted one bright square in the middle of the picture. Now I was glad my blue paper helped the whole town come together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What wish from the start of the story does the ending bring back?

2. How does the narrator's choice in paragraph 2 make the final sentence fit?

3. Which moment after the mosaic is hung helps explain why the narrator feels glad?

4. Would "I wished I had kept my square for the pond" fit as the final sentence? Use an event from the story to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a different ending of two or three sentences to replace the story's final two sentences. Mention an event from the story and show how the narrator feels about sharing the blue square.

ANSWER KEY

A Different Ending

GRADE 4 · 4.W.3.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two sentences that end the story. Circle two earlier details that help those sentences make sense. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What wish from the start of the story does the ending bring back?	**The narrator wanted the shiny blue square to be a pond at the center, where everyone would see it.**
2	How does the narrator's choice in paragraph 2 make the final sentence fit?	**The narrator tears the square into pieces so Mara can use them to make a river through the town.**
3	Which moment after the mosaic is hung helps explain why the narrator feels glad?	**A younger student points to the fish and follows the river with his finger, making Mara grin.**
4	Would "I wished I had kept my square for the pond" fit as the final sentence? Use an event from the story to explain.	**No. The narrator chose to share the square for the river and feels glad when someone notices the finished picture.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the younger student followed our river with his finger, Mara and I exchanged a smile. I no longer missed the pond I had planned, because our pieces made a place for her fish.

For the marking job, accept the last two sentences underlined and any two earlier details that support the narrator's change of heart. For the new ending, accept feelings other than pride or happiness if they fit the choice to share.