The Gate Swings Wide

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

5.W.3.a "Establish a situation and/or setting and 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 show when and where the story begins, and circle the word that identifies the narrator and the name of another character. Number three key events in the order they happen.

Before the Garden Opened

1. On Saturday morning at the community garden, I followed my neighbor Mr. Ortiz past rows of tall sunflowers. We had come to repair the loose gate before the garden opened. I held a small box of screws while he tested the hinges. Each time the wind pushed, the gate swung wide and bumped the watering cans stacked beside it.

2. Mr. Ortiz reached for his screwdriver, but it was missing from his tool bag. I remembered seeing a shiny handle near the compost bins, so I hurried down the path. Behind one bin, I found the screwdriver under a coil of hose. As I picked it up, a sharp clang rang out from the gate.

3. I ran back and saw the gate had knocked over a watering can. Water streamed toward a stack of paper seed packets. While Mr. Ortiz lifted the can, I moved the packets to a dry bench. Then I handed him the screwdriver. He tightened the hinge, and the gate stayed shut when the next gust blew through the garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When and where does the story begin? How does that setting help explain why the gate is a problem?

2. Who tells the story, and how is Mr. Ortiz connected to the narrator?

3. What problem sends the narrator down the path? What detail makes the trip to the compost bins make sense?

4. After the narrator hears the clang, what does the narrator do before Mr. Ortiz tightens the hinge? Explain why the last action matters.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 5- or 6-sentence scene set at an outdoor market where something unexpected happens. Introduce a narrator and another character, then show their actions and an ending in an order that makes sense.

ANSWER KEY

The Gate Swings Wide

GRADE 5 · 5.W.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show when and where the story begins, and circle the word that identifies the narrator and the name of another character. Number three key events in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When and where does the story begin? How does that setting help explain why the gate is a problem?	**It begins on Saturday morning at the community garden. The loose gate needs repair before the garden opens.**
2	Who tells the story, and how is Mr. Ortiz connected to the narrator?	**The person called "I" tells the story. Mr. Ortiz is the narrator's neighbor.**
3	What problem sends the narrator down the path? What detail makes the trip to the compost bins make sense?	**Mr. Ortiz's screwdriver is missing. The narrator remembers seeing a shiny handle near the compost bins.**
4	After the narrator hears the clang, what does the narrator do before Mr. Ortiz tightens the hinge? Explain why the last action matters.	**The narrator runs back, moves the seed packets away from the water, and hands Mr. Ortiz the screwdriver. He needs the screwdriver to tighten the hinge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Friday evening, I stood beside my aunt Mina at the farmers market, holding a basket of peaches. A sudden gust tore the price sign from our table. It skidded toward a puddle, so I hurried after it. Aunt Mina caught the basket before it tipped, while I grabbed the sign. We clipped the sign beneath a heavy jar. When the next gust came, our table stayed ready for customers.

For the marking job, accept any three meaningful events numbered in story order. For the original scene, look for a clear outdoor-market setting, a narrator and another character, and connected events that lead to an ending.