The Last Crossing

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

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem in the first paragraph, circle the repair in the second, and box the last two sentences of the story. Use your marks to see how the ending connects to what happened before.

The Boat Race

1 At our class boat race, everyone gathered around a long tub of water. I had built a boat from a milk carton and taped a paper sail to a straw. When I set it down, the boat leaned hard to one side. A breeze from the open window tipped it over, and water soaked the sail. I wanted to hide the boat under my desk.

2 My friend Jada pointed to the loose tape under the straw. We dried the carton with paper towels, then moved the straw to the middle and held it in place with fresh tape. I folded a smaller sail from scrap paper. Before the next race, I tested the boat in the tub. It floated upright, even when Jada blew across the water.

3 When the next race began, my boat stayed upright as it drifted beside Jada's. Hers reached the far end first, but mine crossed the tub without tipping. I lifted it out and felt the dry sail between my fingers. I had wanted to hide my soggy boat, but now I felt proud that I had fixed it and finished the race.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which event near the end shows that the boat's problem has been solved? How does it connect to the first paragraph?

2. How does the narrator's feeling at the end differ from the feeling shown at the start? What caused the change?

3. Why does the ending make sense even though Jada's boat reaches the far end first?

4. Suppose the story ended, “I threw my boat away and ran outside.” Which later event would that ending ignore?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3- to 4-sentence conclusion for this new story: Your class's paper bridge collapses during a weight test, and you and a partner rebuild it. Show what happens in the next test and how the narrator feels about the result.

ANSWER KEY

The Last Crossing

GRADE 5 · 5.W.3.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem in the first paragraph, circle the repair in the second, and box the last two sentences of the story. Use your marks to see how the ending connects to what happened before. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which event near the end shows that the boat's problem has been solved? How does it connect to the first paragraph?	**The boat crosses the tub without tipping. In the first paragraph, it tipped over and soaked its sail.**
2	How does the narrator's feeling at the end differ from the feeling shown at the start? What caused the change?	**At first, the narrator wanted to hide the boat. At the end, the narrator feels proud because the repaired boat finished the race.**
3	Why does the ending make sense even though Jada's boat reaches the far end first?	**The narrator's problem was that the boat tipped over. Finishing the race without tipping shows that the repair worked, even though Jada won.**
4	Suppose the story ended, "I threw my boat away and ran outside." Which later event would that ending ignore?	**It would ignore that the narrator repaired the boat and finished the race without tipping.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the next test, we placed one coin at a time on our rebuilt bridge. It held six coins before the middle bent, two more than it had held before. I felt proud of our careful work, even though we would need another try to make it stronger.

Accept answers that connect the narrator's pride to the boat staying upright and finishing the race. For Part 3, the conclusion should follow the bridge's collapse and repair, show a result from the next test, and make the narrator's feeling clear.