The Patched Moon

Trace how a story problem becomes part of its ending.

5.W.3 "Write narratives (story, poetry, or drama) to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and clear event sequences..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that show when events happen, circle two sensory details, and number three key events in order. Use your marks to trace how the problem leads to the ending.

A Cloud on the Moon

1 Behind the school stage, Mina held the paper moon above her head. The spring concert was minutes away, and the silver paint still smelled sharp. As she lifted the moon onto its hook, a corner caught on a nail. Rip! A long tear split the moon's bright face. Mina froze while the music teacher called, "Places, everyone!" The audience began to clap in the room beyond the curtain.

2 First, Mina searched the prop box, but she found only string and scraps of blue cloth. "Can you hold the moon steady?" she asked Ben, who was waiting to pull the curtain. He nodded, though his hands shook. Mina tied the cloth behind the tear and pulled the edges together. Just then, the curtain rose. She ducked behind a cardboard tree as Ben lifted the patched moon into place.

3 From the audience, the patch looked like a dark cloud crossing the moon. Mina's stomach loosened when the first singer stepped forward and pointed up at it. "A cloudy night," the singer said, then began the song. Later, as the final note rang out, Mina peeked around the tree. Ben grinned at her, and she grinned back. The torn moon had become part of the sky they had made together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph set up a problem that Mina must solve quickly?

2. How do Mina and Ben work together to solve the problem?

3. Which phrase makes the curtain's rise feel sudden? How does that moment speed up the action?

4. How does the singer's line help the ending follow naturally from the repair?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six- to eight-sentence scene about a small problem at an event you invent. Introduce a character and setting, show what happens in order with two time transitions, include dialogue and a sensory detail, and end with a result that follows from the events.

ANSWER KEY

The Patched Moon

GRADE 5 · 5.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that show when events happen, circle two sensory details, and number three key events in order. Use your marks to trace how the problem leads to the ending. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph set up a problem that Mina must solve quickly?	**The paper moon tears just before the concert, while the audience is already clapping.**
2	How do Mina and Ben work together to solve the problem?	**Ben holds the moon steady while Mina ties cloth behind the tear. Then Ben lifts the patched moon into place.**
3	Which phrase makes the curtain's rise feel sudden? How does that moment speed up the action?	**“Just then” makes the curtain's rise feel sudden. Mina must duck while Ben quickly lifts the moon.**
4	How does the singer's line help the ending follow naturally from the repair?	**The singer calls the patched moon a cloudy night, so the patch becomes part of the concert's sky instead of a mistake.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the ice rink, Leo reached for his mitten, but his coat pocket was empty. Cold air nipped his bare fingers as he searched under the bench. “I had it when we bought our tickets,” he said. First, we checked the counter, but no mitten was there. Then I spotted a red thumb poking out from behind a rental skate. Leo pulled the mitten free and slipped it on. When the lesson began, he waved both warm hands at me from the ice.

Accept different key events if students number them in a logical sequence. Sensory details may include the sharp smell of paint, the ripping sound, or the patch's appearance.