A Moon on Cue

Read a model story to see how a problem changes its ending.

6.W.3 "Write narratives and other creative texts (e.g. poetry, graphic stories, digital compositions, memoirs) to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that move the story forward in time, and circle one sensory detail. Number the moon's fall, the flashlight fix, and the moon's recovery 1 to 3 in the order they happen.

The Missing Moon

1 On Friday afternoon, I stood in the wings of our school gym, gripping a cardboard moon. Our class was about to perform a play about sailors finding their way home. Mina, who played the captain, peeked through a gap at the folding chairs. "Every seat is full," she whispered. My stomach tightened like a knot in wet rope. I had one job: raise the moon when Mina called for night. The gym smelled of floor polish and popcorn, and the first row of parents leaned forward.

2 An hour later, the lights dimmed, and the sailors stepped onto the painted deck. "Night is coming," Mina announced. I pulled the cord, but it snagged on a chair leg. The cardboard moon jerked sideways, tore free, and slid beneath the folded bleachers. My cheeks burned. Across the stage, Mina held her hand above her eyes, waiting. I could not reach the moon without crossing in front of the audience. Then I spotted the flashlight our teacher kept beside the sound table.

3 While Mina repeated her line, I aimed the flashlight at the blue backdrop. A pale circle appeared above the painted deck. "There it is," Mina said, pointing, and the sailors cheered as if the moon had risen on cue. I kept my hand steady until the scene ended. After the applause, I crawled beneath the bleachers and found the torn moon beside a dusty sneaker. On the walk home, Mina laughed about our new special effect. I realized a story could stay on course even when its props did not.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the opening details show where the narrator is and why the moment feels tense?

2. Why does the narrator use the flashlight instead of getting the cardboard moon?

3. Which phrases move the story from the afternoon before the play to its final moment? Give two phrases and explain what each one signals.

4. How does the narrator's final thought connect to what happened onstage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 6 to 8 sentences about a different small problem you or an imagined character solves. Show where and when it happens, include dialogue and a sensory detail, use at least two time transitions, and end with a thought about what happened.

ANSWER KEY

A Moon on Cue

GRADE 6 · 6.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that move the story forward in time, and circle one sensory detail. Number the moon's fall, the flashlight fix, and the moon's recovery 1 to 3 in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the opening details show where the narrator is and why the moment feels tense?	**The narrator waits in the wings of the school gym to raise the moon for a play. The full audience and the narrator's knotted stomach show the tension.**
2	Why does the narrator use the flashlight instead of getting the cardboard moon?	**The moon slides beneath the bleachers, and retrieving it would mean crossing in front of the audience.**
3	Which phrases move the story from the afternoon before the play to its final moment? Give two phrases and explain what each one signals.	**"An hour later" moves the story to the performance. "On the walk home" moves it to a time after the play.**
4	How does the narrator's final thought connect to what happened onstage?	**The cardboard moon fails, but the flashlight lets the play continue. The narrator realizes that a story can work even when a prop does not.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dawn, my sister and I built a bridge of stones across a garden puddle so our toy hikers could cross. "The river is rising!" she cried as rain tapped the porch roof. Minutes later, a stream swept away the middle stone, and our hikers tipped into the mud. I wedged a flat piece of bark between the banks while my sister rescued the toys. The bark trembled, but it held as we marched them over one by one. By lunchtime, the puddle had dried into cracked earth. Our bridge had lasted only an hour, yet we still called it our best adventure.

Accept different marked sensory details and time phrases if they appear in the passage. For Part 3, check that the problem and solution follow a clear sequence and that the final thought reflects the experience.