An Ending Earned

Trace how a story's conclusion grows from earlier events.

7.W.3.e "Provide a conclusion that follows from and/or reflects on the narrated experiences or events (when appropriate to genre)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the narrator's last two sentences. Circle two earlier details that help explain why the story ends this way.

The Hinge

1 On the morning of the school invention fair, I carried a cardboard model of a bus stop into the gym. Its roof, made from a cereal box, sagged on one side. I had designed a bench that could fold up to make more space, but the hinge kept catching. Maya offered to test it again. I shook my head. If it broke in front of the judges, they would see every mistake I had tried to hide. I set the model behind our poster and hoped nobody would touch it.

2 When the judges reached our table, one asked how a person using a wheelchair could get under the roof. Maya lifted the model while I demonstrated the bench. The hinge stuck, then tore a thin strip of cardboard. I waited for the judge to move on. Instead, she asked where the trouble started. We showed her the bent paper fastener and tried a wider hole. The bench folded smoothly on our second try. Other students came over, and Maya let them test the moving part.

3 At the end of the fair, our model did not win a ribbon. As we packed up, a student pointed to the torn cardboard and asked whether the tear was part of the design. I almost covered it with the poster, but I explained how the hinge had failed. He studied the bench and suggested a second fastener. Walking home, the model bumped against my leg in its box. The tear no longer looked like something to hide. Tomorrow, I would ask Maya to help me try his idea.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the narrator's choice to explain the tear lead to the final plan?

2. What earlier action does "The tear no longer looked like something to hide" contrast with? What has changed?

3. Why does asking Maya for help make sense as the final action? Use a detail from earlier in the story.

4. How does the ending shift attention away from winning a ribbon? Use a detail from the final paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you narrated a time you tried to teach someone a game, but your first explanation confused them. Write a 5- to 7-sentence concluding paragraph that shows what happens next and reflects on how the experience changed your thinking.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.W.3.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the narrator's last two sentences. Circle two earlier details that help explain why the story ends this way. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the narrator's choice to explain the tear lead to the final plan?	**Explaining the failed hinge lets the student examine the bench and suggest a second fastener, which the narrator plans to try.**
2	What earlier action does "The tear no longer looked like something to hide" contrast with? What has changed?	**The narrator first hides the model behind a poster and later almost covers the tear. By the end, the narrator is willing to show the flaw and use others' ideas to improve the model.**
3	Why does asking Maya for help make sense as the final action? Use a detail from earlier in the story.	**Maya offered to test the hinge earlier and helped demonstrate the model, so she is a natural person to ask about trying the new fastener.**
4	How does the ending shift attention away from winning a ribbon? Use a detail from the final paragraph.	**Although the model does not win, the narrator plans to try the student's idea. The ending focuses on improving the design rather than receiving a prize.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My cousin stared at the chessboard after I explained every piece at once. I put the pieces back and showed her only how a pawn moves. We played a short round with pawns, and she captured mine before I noticed the opening. "Again," she said, already lining up the pieces. I had wanted her to learn the whole game in one afternoon. Now I knew that giving her one move to try was better than giving her every rule to remember.

Accept answers that connect the ending to specific earlier actions, even if students choose different supporting details. For Part 3, look for an ending that follows from the initial confusion and includes a reflection grounded in what happened.