A Different Finish

Trace how a narrative ending reflects what happened before it.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details from the earlier events that return in the ending. Circle the sentence that shows how the narrator's thinking has changed.

The Blue Line

1 On the morning of the school showcase, I drew a blue chalk line across our display board. Our little rover was supposed to follow it, turn at a cardboard moon, and stop beneath a paper flag. I had written most of the code, so I waved away Nia when she asked to test the turn once more. "It worked yesterday," I said. The gym filled with families, and the rover sat at the starting point while I rubbed a streak of blue chalk from my thumb.

2 When I pressed start, the rover followed the line, reached the moon, and spun in a tight circle. Its wheels squeaked against the cardboard. I stopped it before it hit another team's display, then stared at the screen, certain everyone had seen my mistake. Nia crouched beside me and pointed to the turn command. I had entered ninety degrees where the program needed forty-five. She held the rover steady while I changed the number. We tested it behind our table, then tried again for the waiting crowd.

3 This time the rover rounded the moon and stopped beneath the flag. A few people clapped, but I remembered Nia holding the wheels more clearly than the applause. As we packed up, I found blue chalk still dusting my thumb. That morning, I had treated the line as proof that I could guide the rover alone. Now I saw it as a path we had finished together. On the walk out, I asked Nia what she would change before our next showcase.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two details from earlier in the story return in the ending? Describe where each first appears.

2. How does the narrator's view of the blue line change by the ending?

3. Why does the narrator remember Nia holding the rover more clearly than the applause? Use an event from the middle paragraph.

4. How does the narrator's final question to Nia follow from what happened at the showcase?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 5- to 7-sentence ending to your own fictional story about an argument while preparing for a celebration. Show one specific thing that went wrong, reflect on how it changed the narrator's thinking, and close with an action that fits the change.

ANSWER KEY

A Different Finish

GRADE 8 · 8.W.3.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details from the earlier events that return in the ending. Circle the sentence that shows how the narrator's thinking has changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two details from earlier in the story return in the ending? Describe where each first appears.	**The chalk on the narrator's thumb first appears before the demonstration. Nia holding the rover first appears when they fix the turn command.**
2	How does the narrator's view of the blue line change by the ending?	**The narrator first sees it as proof of working alone, then sees it as a path completed with Nia.**
3	Why does the narrator remember Nia holding the rover more clearly than the applause? Use an event from the middle paragraph.	**Nia helped find the incorrect turn command and held the rover while the narrator fixed it. Their teamwork matters more to the narrator than the applause.**
4	How does the narrator's final question to Nia follow from what happened at the showcase?	**The narrator dismissed Nia's suggestion to test the rover, but Nia helped fix it after the failed run. Asking for her ideas shows the narrator now values her input.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The paper lantern tore when I pulled it away from Mara. For a moment, we both stared at the empty space above the doorway. I had been so busy defending my plan that I had not asked why she wanted the lantern there. She said it was where her grandmother would see it from her chair. We taped the tear, then hung the lantern by the doorway. When Mara asked where to put the next one, I asked her to choose with me.

For the marking job, accept the returning chalk detail and Nia's help with the rover. The circled sentence should show the narrator's new understanding of their shared work.