

# Rainy Day Race

Read a personal narrative model and notice the writer's craft.

**4.12.A** “compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft;”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two sensory details, circle the dialogue, and number the beginning, middle, and ending events 1, 2, and 3 to notice how the writer builds a personal narrative.

### The Paper Boat Race

- ① On Saturday morning, gray clouds pressed low over our street. I carried my paper boat to the curb, where rainwater rushed along the gutter. My little brother, Eli, stood beside me in yellow boots. “Ready?” he asked. The air smelled like wet soil, and cold drops tapped my nose. I gripped the folded sides so they would not sag.
- ② Eli set his boat beside mine, and we counted to three. Then we let go. My boat spun in a tiny puddle while Eli’s slid ahead. “Come on, Spark!” I shouted, using the name I had written on its sail. I wanted to grab it, but I kept my hands at my sides. The gutter gurgled around our ankles.
- ③ At the corner, a leaf blocked the water. Both boats bumped against it. I used a twig to lift the leaf, and Spark shot forward. It reached the storm drain first. Eli laughed and splashed me, but I did not mind losing my dry socks. For one rainy minute, our ordinary street felt like a river race.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What two details help you picture the setting at the beginning of the narrative?

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**2** Copy one line of dialogue. What does it show about the characters or the race?

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**3** What problem happens near the corner, and what does the narrator do to solve it?

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**4** What does the last sentence show about how the narrator feels after the race? Use one detail from the sentence in your answer.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a six-sentence personal narrative about one small moment from your life. Include a setting detail, one sensory detail, dialogue, events in order, and a final sentence that tells what you thought or learned.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline two sensory details, circle the dialogue, and number the beginning, middle, and ending events 1, 2, and 3 to notice how the writer builds a personal narrative. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                       | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What two details help you picture the setting at the beginning of the narrative?                                               | <b>Answers may include gray clouds pressed low over the street, rainwater rushed along the gutter, Eli wore yellow boots, the air smelled like wet soil, or cold drops tapped the narrator's nose.</b> |
| 2 | Copy one line of dialogue. What does it show about the characters or the race?                                                 | <b>"Ready?" he asked. It shows that Eli is prepared to begin the race. OR "Come on, Spark!" I shouted. It shows that the narrator cares about the boat and wants it to win.</b>                        |
| 3 | What problem happens near the corner, and what does the narrator do to solve it?                                               | <b>A leaf blocks the water and stops the boats. The narrator uses a twig to lift the leaf.</b>                                                                                                         |
| 4 | What does the last sentence show about how the narrator feels after the race? Use one detail from the sentence in your answer. | <b>The narrator feels that the rainy race was special or exciting because the ordinary street felt like a river race.</b>                                                                              |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

After school, I searched my backpack for the library book due that day. The hallway smelled like pencil shavings, and rain drummed on the windows. "Check the art room," Ms. Vega said. I hurried there and found the book under a stack of blue paper. When I returned it, the librarian smiled and stamped my card. I learned that slowing down can help me notice what I missed.

Accept reasonable quoted details and explanations that match the passage. For the personal narrative, look for a focused moment, clear sequence, and the required craft details, including a reflective ending.