Map by the Creek

Notice how a character, setting, and sensory details move a story forward.

3.RL.2 "Craft and Style Discuss how an author uses characters and settings to advance the plot. Identify and explain how an author uses sensory language (e.g., sights, sounds, smells, and tastes) to impact a reader's understanding of characters..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sensory words or phrases, and circle details that tell where the story happens. Number the three events that move the problem toward its solution.

The Missing Map

1. On Saturday morning, I carried Grandpa's map to the old oak by Willow Creek. The grass was wet and cold against my shoes, and the creek made a busy splashing sound over gray stones. My friend Ben waited beside the tree. We planned to follow the map to a hidden birdwatching spot before the rain began.

2. A gust of wind tugged the paper from my hands. It skidded across the muddy bank and landed near the water. Ben pointed to a narrow wooden bridge downstream. "We can cross there and catch it," he said. The bridge looked shaky, but dark clouds covered the sky. If we waited, the rain might wash the map away.

3. I held the bridge rail while Ben reached with a long branch. The rail felt rough under my fingers, and the air smelled like wet leaves. He pulled the map from the edge of the creek. Just then, the first raindrops tapped our heads. We hurried back to the oak, laughing, and chose to watch birds another sunny day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the narrator of the story? How do you know?

2. Choose one sensory detail from the story. What does it help you understand about the setting or an event?

3. How does the creek setting help cause the problem in the story?

4. What does Ben do to help solve the problem? Explain how his action moves the plot forward.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence story scene about a character facing a small problem outdoors. Include one sensory detail, and show how the character's action helps solve the problem.

ANSWER KEY

Map by the Creek

GRADE 3 · 3.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline sensory words or phrases, and circle details that tell where the story happens. Number the three events that move the problem toward its solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the narrator of the story? How do you know?	**The narrator is the unnamed person carrying Grandpa's map. The narrator uses the word "I."**
2	Choose one sensory detail from the story. What does it help you understand about the setting or an event?	**Answers may vary. For example, "the air smelled like wet leaves" shows that the setting is damp and rainy as the characters get the map.**
3	How does the creek setting help cause the problem in the story?	**The wind blows the map onto the muddy bank near the creek, where it could be washed away by rain.**
4	What does Ben do to help solve the problem? Explain how his action moves the plot forward.	**Ben points out the bridge and uses a long branch to pull the map from the creek's edge. His actions help the characters get the map back.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the windy playground, Tia heard the metal gate clang behind her. The sharp sound made her turn and see that her kite was caught on the gate. She asked her brother to hold the string while she freed the kite.

Accept reasonable sensory details and explanations that connect a detail to the setting, character, or plot. For Part 3, look for exactly three sentences with an outdoor setting, a sensory detail, a problem, and an action that helps solve it.