Flight Story, Two Views

Compare two accounts of the Wright brothers' first flight.

4.RI.3 "Integration of Concepts Use prior (experience) and background (content) knowledge as context for new learning. Compare and contrast multiple accounts of the same event or topic and describe the differences in focus and the information..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show the order of the first flight. Circle details that show what Orville's account and Daniels's account each focus on, so you can compare them.

A Flight Seen Two Ways

1. On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright tested a powered airplane near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Strong winds blew across the sand. The brothers took turns flying their Flyer. Orville made the first successful flight, which lasted 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet. Later that day, Wilbur flew farther. These flights showed that a machine could carry a person through the air using its own engine.

2. Orville later described the first flight in a written account. He explained the steps: the Flyer ran along a rail, rose from the ground, and landed in the sand. Orville included numbers for the wind, the time in the air, and the distance traveled. His account focused on how the machine worked and on facts that could help explain the test.

3. John T. Daniels, a member of a nearby life-saving station, watched the flight. In a later interview, he remembered the wind and the surprise of seeing the Flyer leave the rail. Daniels had helped the brothers move the airplane. His account focused on what it felt like to witness the event. He also took the famous photograph of Orville's first flight when the camera shutter was triggered.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How is Orville's account focused differently from Daniels's account?

2. What happened immediately before the Flyer rose from the ground?

3. Name one type of information that Orville gives and one type of information that Daniels gives.

4. What did the Wright brothers' flights show about a machine with its own engine?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences comparing Orville's and Daniels's accounts. Include one similarity, one difference in focus, and one sequence or cause-and-effect word.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.RI.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show the order of the first flight. Circle details that show what Orville's account and Daniels's account each focus on, so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is Orville's account focused differently from Daniels's account?	**Orville focuses on the steps and measurements of the test. Daniels focuses on watching the flight and feeling surprised.**
2	What happened immediately before the Flyer rose from the ground?	**The Flyer ran along a rail.**
3	Name one type of information that Orville gives and one type of information that Daniels gives.	**Orville gives measurements, such as wind, time, or distance. Daniels gives an eyewitness memory of the wind and surprise.**
4	What did the Wright brothers' flights show about a machine with its own engine?	**They showed that it could carry a person through the air.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both accounts describe the Flyer leaving the rail. Orville explains the test with measurements, while Daniels describes the surprise of watching it. After the Flyer rose, it landed in the sand.

Accept responses that accurately compare the two accounts and use a comparison word plus a sequence or cause-and-effect word. Students may choose different accurate details from the passage.