# Recipe for Resilience

Notice how a narrator builds a challenge, response, and change.

**6.W.1.A** "Write narratives to entertain, to share a personal experience, or to alter an existing story that uses narrative techniques to develop the characters, event(s), and experience(s)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one sensory detail that sets the scene, circle the problem, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three actions that move the narrator from the problem to the ending.

### The Blue Recipe Box

1 On Saturday morning, I carried my grandmother's blue recipe box to the community bake sale. The box felt heavier than it looked because the cards inside were thick with flour stains and notes. I had promised to bake her cinnamon rolls, even though I had never used yeast alone. At the school cafeteria door, the sharp smell of coffee made my stomach tighten. My friend Lena waved from a table covered with empty plates nearby.

2 I mixed the dough behind Lena's table, reading each card twice. When I lifted the bowl, the dough slid out in one pale, sticky lump and landed on the floor. "We can still sell cookies," Lena said. Heat rushed into my face. Then I noticed Grandmother's note in the corner of the card: "Mistakes need patience." I borrowed a mop, cleaned the floor, and started a new batch with Lena measuring beside me carefully, quietly, and slowly.

3 By noon, the second batch had risen into soft, round pillows. I rolled the dough, sprinkled cinnamon across it, and set the pan in the oven. Soon, warm sugar and spice drifted through the cafeteria. The first customer bought two rolls and asked for the recipe. I handed her a copy, but kept Grandmother's stained card safe in the blue box. As Lena counted the coins, I realized I had not ruined the day. I had learned how to begin again.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph establish the setting and the narrator's goal?

2. What event creates the main problem, and what does the narrator do first to respond?

3. What does Lena's dialogue reveal about her character? Use her words as evidence.

4. How do the sensory details help show a change from the beginning to the ending of the story?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 6 to 8 sentence narrative about a time when a plan went wrong and you solved the problem. Include a setting, a challenge, at least one action you take, one line of dialogue, a sensory detail, and an ending that shows what changed.

ANSWER KEY

# Recipe for Resilience

GRADE 6 · 6.W.1.A

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sensory detail that sets the scene, circle the problem, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three actions that move the narrator from the problem to the ending. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does the first paragraph establish the setting and the narrator's goal? | **The story takes place at a community bake sale in a school cafeteria on Saturday morning. The narrator wants to bake Grandmother's cinnamon rolls.** |
| 2 | What event creates the main problem, and what does the narrator do first to respond? | **The dough falls from the bowl onto the floor. The narrator borrows a mop and cleans the floor.** |
| 3 | What does Lena's dialogue reveal about her character? Use her words as evidence. | **Lena is supportive and hopeful. She says, "We can still sell cookies."** |
| 4 | How do the sensory details help show a change from the beginning to the ending of the story? | **At the beginning, the sharp smell of coffee makes the narrator's stomach tighten, showing worry. At the end, warm sugar and spice drift through the cafeteria, showing a successful, hopeful result.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I entered the library carrying a poster for my science project. Rain tapped the windows, and my wet shoes squeaked on the tile. When I opened my backpack, the poster was bent and smeared with blue ink. "We can fix it," my partner Omar said, sliding a clean sheet of paper across the table. My cheeks burned, but I copied the chart again while Omar held the corners flat. At judging time, our new poster looked simple and neat. When the judge nodded, I smelled the dusty books and remembered that a problem can become part of the story.

Accept responses that accurately identify narrative techniques and support answers with details from the passage. For the narrative, accept varied topics if the writing includes a clear challenge, actions, dialogue, sensory detail, and an ending that shows change.