The Greenhouse Fix

Track how a model narrative uses detail, sequence, and shifts.

7.W.1.A "Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or to alter an existing text, using a variety of precise words and phrases and transitional words to develop the characters, convey sequence..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline transition words or phrases that show a change in time or setting, circle five precise details, and number the main events in order to see how the narrative moves.

Lena's Repair

1 On Saturday morning, Lena unlocked the gate to her grandfather's small greenhouse. Cool air smelled of damp soil and mint. She carried a chipped blue watering can between crowded shelves, aiming its thin silver stream at the drooping basil. Outside, rain tapped the glass roof. Then Lena noticed the tomato vines sagging under a snapped cord. Her grandfather would return from the market at noon, and she wanted the plants standing tall before he arrived.

2 An hour earlier, Grandpa had shown Lena how to tie a soft cloth strip around a weak stem. Now, she searched the potting bench, but only brittle twine lay in the drawer. In the kitchen, she found an old cotton apron with a torn pocket. She cut three narrow strips, climbed onto a wooden stool, and gently lifted each vine. Soon, the stems rested against their bamboo stakes instead of dragging across the wet floor.

3 By noon, the rain had thinned to a mist, and the greenhouse glowed pale green. Grandpa stepped through the gate, carrying a crate of peaches. At first, Lena waited beside the shelves, certain he would spot the apron strips. He did. He touched one knot, then looked at her with a surprised grin. Later, while they washed dirt from their hands at the sink, Lena explained her repair. The steady drip of water sounded different now, like a quiet applause.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What words signal the move backward in time in paragraph 2? What happened at that earlier time?

2. Where does Lena go after looking in the potting bench drawer, and which words show the setting shift?

3. Put these actions in order: Lena cuts apron strips, Lena notices the snapped cord, Lena lifts the vines, Grandpa sees the repair.

4. Which two details in paragraph 3 show Grandpa's response to Lena's repair? What do they suggest about his reaction?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence narrative scene in which a character solves a small problem. Start in one setting, shift to a new setting or a later time, use at least three precise details, and use at least three transition words or phrases to show sequence and shifts.

ANSWER KEY # The Greenhouse Fix

GRADE 7 · 7.W.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline transition words or phrases that show a change in time or setting, circle five precise details, and number the main events in order to see how the narrative moves. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What words signal the move backward in time in paragraph 2? What happened at that earlier time?	**"An hour earlier" signals the shift backward. Grandpa had shown Lena how to tie a soft cloth strip around a weak stem.**
2	Where does Lena go after looking in the potting bench drawer, and which words show the setting shift?	**She goes to the kitchen. The phrase "In the kitchen" shows the setting shift.**
3	Put these actions in order: Lena cuts apron strips, Lena notices the snapped cord, Lena lifts the vines, Grandpa sees the repair.	**1. Lena notices the snapped cord. 2. Lena cuts apron strips. 3. Lena lifts the vines. 4. Grandpa sees the repair.**
4	Which two details in paragraph 3 show Grandpa's response to Lena's repair? What do they suggest about his reaction?	**He "touched one knot" and looked at Lena with "a surprised grin." These details suggest that he notices her careful work and is pleased.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dawn, I found my poster soaked beside the open bedroom window. First, I blotted the purple letters with a rough towel, but the paper curled like a leaf. Then I carried it to the warm laundry room, where the dryer hummed beside a basket of socks. An hour later, I pressed the poster under three heavy cookbooks and painted a clean border around the smudged edge. By lunchtime, the paper lay flat enough to hang in the hallway.

Accept equivalent quoted transitions, setting evidence, and correctly ordered events from the passage. For the writing task, accept varied topics if the response has five sentences, a clear shift, at least three precise details, and at least three transitions or time-and-setting phrases.