

As you read the story, notice the order in which things happen.

“The next rapid is coming up,” shouted Tracy, the rafting guide.

Travis could already hear the roaring water and see little spurts of spray on the river’s surface ahead. On this river trip, everyone was required to take a turn as captain of the raft through one rapid. This was Travis’s rapid. At fourteen he was the youngest in the crew.

“Let’s land on the right bank,” Tracy said. “We should get a good look at the rapid before we move on,” she explained.

“Right turn. Forward,” Travis called from his position in the raft’s stern. The crew paddled for the right shore.

They secured the raft and climbed single file up a narrow path to a bluff where they could overlook the whole rapid.

“The left side offers more thrills, but we had better know our stuff,” Tracy said, “or we can go down the right side and play it safe. Which will it be?”

“Let’s go left,” Travis said after a pause.

Tracy reminded them that they had to consider four things before they entered the rapid. First was

the flow of the current. Next were the obstacles they would have to avoid. Third was the route they would take. And last were the what-ifs, if their plan went wrong. They discussed the four problems and worked out a plan.

The crew steered the raft out into the current. Now there was no going back. Travis braced himself for the force of the rapid and watched for his first marker, a small tree growing out over the river. A second later, there was the red rock, the next marker he had chosen.

“Right turn!” Travis shouted, and the crew paddled forward on the left side and backward on the right side of the raft to swing it around. The roaring water of the first hole was quickly beside them and then just as quickly behind them.

“Forward!” Paddle blades rose and fell as the eight rafters pulled through the turbulent waves. “Left turn!” At Travis’s command the crew turned the raft so its bow was toward the waves. The thundering water of the second hole covered almost half the river, but they missed it.

“Nice going, Travis!” Tracy shouted. Travis found himself cheering with the others as the raft floated down the river into calm waters.

Were you able to follow the order in which things happened during the raft's trip through the rapid?

To understand a story, you need to know what happened first, what happened second, what happened next, and so on. Knowing the order, or sequence, of events in a story helps you understand and remember what you have read.

Writers often use certain words that tell you when things are happening. Words such as *before*, *after*, *first*, *then*, and *next* are clues to the timing of events. As you read, look for words that indicate the order in which things happen.

This card will give you practice finding the sequence of events in a story.

Number your paper from 1 to 7. Write the letter of the answer to each question.

- ① At the beginning of the story, who is captain?
 - a. Travis's father
 - b. Tracy
 - c. Travis
- ② What did the raft crew do just before entering the rapid?
 - a. They wished Travis good luck.
 - b. They looked at the rapid from a bluff.
 - c. They chose a captain for the trip.

- ③ In what order did Tracy present the four problems?
 - a. Route, what-ifs, current, obstacles
 - b. Obstacles, current, what-ifs, route
 - c. Current, obstacles, route, what-ifs
- ④ What did Travis do first as the raft was about to enter the rapid?
 - a. He braced himself.
 - b. He gave the command, "Forward!"
 - c. He watched for the hole.
- ⑤ Travis' second marker was a
 - a. a hole.
 - b. a tree.
 - c. a rock.
- ⑥ The raft was safely through the rapid when it passed
 - a. the landing spot.
 - b. the second hole.
 - c. the small tree.
- ⑦ When do we learn that Travis is fourteen?
 - a. At the beginning
 - b. In the middle
 - c. At the end

Skill Builder Key Card

L E S S O N 153

1 a

2 b

3 b

4 a

5 c

6 a

SAMPLE

Skill Builder Key Card

LEARN ON 154

1 c

2 b

3 c

4 a

5 c

6 b

7 a

SAMPLE