

The Story Stretch Answer Key

(Students' answers will vary; the key is creating a smooth, coherent paragraph from the given sentences.)

1. The sun was bright, so the children went outside to play soccer, laughing happily as they ran across the field.
2. Maria carried her blue backpack, which held her books and lunch, as she walked to school.
3. A storm was coming, and the sky grew dark while the wind blew hard; soon, rain began to fall, and people ran inside.
4. The teacher gave directions, and the students listened carefully, taking notes to prepare for the test.
5. The family went to the park with sandwiches and drinks, and they had a picnic under a shady tree.

Teacher Notes

- **Key Concept:** Students practice combining multiple short, disconnected ideas into a single smooth paragraph.
- **Focus Areas:** Encourage use of conjunctions, clauses, and descriptive detail to avoid run-on sentences while still combining ideas.
- **Flexibility:** There are many correct answers; grade based on clarity, flow, and correctness.
- **Extension Idea:** Ask students to rewrite their mini-stories in two different ways: one short and concise, one expanded with lots of detail.