

Name _____

Purpose Or Problem Answer Key

Fragment	Mistake or Style?	Why?
So loud the thunder.	Mistake	It lacks a subject and verb; it interrupts flow without clear purpose.
Afraid of what might happen next.	Style	Although missing a subject, it emphasizes the family's fear and adds dramatic effect.
Until finally, silence.	Style	This fragment mimics the sudden stop of the storm, creating impact through rhythm.

Teacher Notes

- This activity teaches students that not all fragments are automatically wrong; **authors sometimes use them intentionally** for emphasis, pacing, or tone.
- Have students practice distinguishing between **accidental errors** and **purposeful choices** by asking:
 1. Does the fragment create meaning or effect?
 2. Or does it confuse the reader and break clarity?
- Encourage students to try writing their own short passage that uses **one stylistic fragment** and **one unintentional fragment**, then swap with a partner to identify which is which.