

# Ruby's Wish - What Stays, What Changes

TEACHES - COMPLETE STANDARD MATCH

## 3.RL.KID.3

Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Why this is a full match Students describe character motivations and observable actions, then explain how Grandfather's later action changes the story outcome for Ruby.

### Source

Tennessee Department of Education - Tennessee Academic Standards for English Language Arts  
[https://](https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/academic-standards/english-language-arts-standards.html)

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ELA SKILL LESSON · GRADE 3

## Ruby's Wish

### What Stays, What Changes

|               |                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| TIME          | 30 minutes full · 15 minutes short                     |
| PRIMARY SKILL | Track continuity and change through observable actions |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OBJECTIVE          | Use before-and-after actions to show that Ruby's goal stays steady while Grandfather's observable response and later action change what becomes possible. |
| STUDENT EVIDENCE   | A stays/changes chart using only actions and words the text shows.                                                                                        |
| ESSENTIAL QUESTION | What stays steady in Ruby, and what changes in what Grandfather says or does?                                                                             |

### Before teaching

Read or play the complete book before the timed lesson. Mark Ruby's continued studying, Grandfather's questions, and the university letter.

|                   |                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Materials:</b> | The book; Student Evidence page; pencil. |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|

Mark these moments: Ruby studying at night · Grandfather's repeated questions · university letter/action

### Lesson sequence

|               |                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4 min</b>  | Start with Ruby Collect two actions showing that Ruby's goal of learning and university stays steady.                        |
| <b>6 min</b>  | Separate action from mind-reading Describe what Grandfather asks and does without claiming we know every private belief.     |
| <b>10 min</b> | Before and after Compare Grandfather's earlier questions with his later action. Record only observable words/actions.        |
| <b>10 min</b> | Connect to outcome Explain how the changed action affects what becomes possible for Ruby, while her own goal remains steady. |

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ELA SKILL LESSON · TEACHER SUPPORT · GRADE 3

# Ruby's Wish

## What Stays, What Changes

|                      |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Access routes</b> |                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SOLO</b>          | Record two Ruby actions that stay consistent and two observable Grandfather actions that differ across the story. |
| <b>SUPPORTED</b>     | Sort evidence into RUBY STAYS STEADY and GRANDFATHER SAYS/DOES. Then explain what becomes possible.               |
| <b>LISTENING</b>     | Replay the marked moments. Ask: “What did Ruby do?” or “What did Grandfather say/do?” An adult may scribe.        |
| <b>EXTEND</b>        | Explain why a story can change dramatically even when the main character’s central goal does not.                 |

### Teacher guidance

Stay with observable evidence. Students may infer that Grandfather’s thinking changed, but they must label that as an inference.

The required evidence is what he asks, listens to, and later does.

### Assessment

- Identifies Ruby’s goal as steady.
- Cites at least one action showing that steadiness.
- Names an earlier and later Grandfather action or response.
- Explains how the later action changes Ruby’s opportunity.
- Does not present a private belief change as direct fact.

Short route · 15 minutes 3 min - Ruby’s steady goal. 5 min - compare Grandfather’s actions. 7 min - connect the later action to Ruby’s opportunity.

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### STUDENT EVIDENCE · GRADE 3

## Ruby's Wish

### What the Text Shows

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Use only words and actions the book shows directly. Then explain how the later action changes what is possible for Ruby.

### **RUBY STAYS STEADY**

What does Ruby keep doing or wanting? Give two actions.

### **GRANDFATHER: EARLIER / LATER**

What does he ask, say, or do earlier? What does he do later?

### **WHAT CHANGES FOR RUBY**

How does the later action change what becomes possible?

### **EXIT CHECK**

One change I can prove from an action is \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **TEACHER KEY · GRADE 3**

# **Ruby's Wish**

## **What Stays, What Changes**

### **Strong response**

Ruby's central purpose remains steady: she studies, works at night, writes, and wants university. The text directly shows Grandfather questioning her and later taking action that makes university possible. A reader may infer changed thinking, but the required claim is the observable change in response and action.

### **Expected evidence**

- Ruby: steady study / learning / university goal.
- Grandfather: observable earlier questions and later action.
- Outcome: later action makes university possible.

### **Watch for**

- Claiming the story states Grandfather's private beliefs changed.
- Saying Ruby changes her central goal at the end.

### **Independent success**

The student proves one steady element and one changed action, then explains the effect on the outcome.

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