Kite Flight Clues

Read a story and uncover what its comparisons mean.

3.LF.14.e "Interpret figurative language."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four phrases that do not mean exactly what they say, and number them 1 to 4 in the order you find them. Use clues in the story to figure out what each phrase means.

A Kite in the Park

1. On Saturday, my class met at the park to fly kites we had made. Mine was red with a long paper tail. I held the string while Ms. Lee checked the knot. The wind tugged at my jacket like an eager puppy. I wanted to run, but I waited until she said the kite was ready.

2. When Ms. Lee nodded, I ran across the grass. The kite rose, dipped, and rose again. My stomach was full of butterflies as I watched it climb past the trees. I worried it might fall. Then the string pulled tight in my hands. My kite was a tiny boat on a sea of blue, sailing high above the park. I slowed down and smiled.

3. A sudden gust pushed the kite toward a tree. I pulled the string gently, and it turned away from the branches. Ms. Lee gave me a thumbs-up. Her kind words were a warm blanket when she said, 'You kept trying, and it worked!' I held the string for a few more minutes, then handed it to my friend Sam for a turn.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does it mean that the wind tugged at the jacket like an eager puppy?

2. The narrator says their stomach was full of butterflies. How did the narrator feel while the kite climbed?

3. What picture does the phrase 'a tiny boat on a sea of blue' help you imagine?

4. What does it mean that Ms. Lee's words were a warm blanket?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a time you felt a strong feeling. In the first sentence, use a new comparison that does not appear in the story. In the second, explain what your comparison means.

ANSWER KEY

Kite Flight Clues

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.14.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four phrases that do not mean exactly what they say, and number them 1 to 4 in the order you find them. Use clues in the story to figure out what each phrase means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does it mean that the wind tugged at the jacket like an eager puppy?	**The wind pulled at the jacket again and again, like a puppy trying to get someone to move.**
2	The narrator says their stomach was full of butterflies. How did the narrator feel while the kite climbed?	**The narrator felt nervous because the kite might fall.**
3	What picture does the phrase 'a tiny boat on a sea of blue' help you imagine?	**It helps the reader picture the small kite moving across the wide blue sky.**
4	What does it mean that Ms. Lee's words were a warm blanket?	**Her kind words made the narrator feel comforted or reassured.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the school concert, my knees were wobbling noodles. I mean that I felt nervous as I waited to sing.

Accept explanations that show the intended meaning of each phrase, even if students use different words. For Your Turn, look for an original comparison and a second sentence that explains it.