Words in Motion

Notice how exact words move a story forward.

3.LF.40.a "Use specific vocabulary to develop a story."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words that help you hear or feel the windy day. Circle three action words that show what Nia or Leo does.

The Seed Packet Chase

1. On planting day, Nia carried a paper packet of sunflower seeds into the school garden. The gate rattled in the wind as she set her trowel beside a row of empty holes. She opened the packet to show Leo the striped seeds. A sharp gust tugged at the paper. The packet slipped from Nia's fingers and skittered across the dirt toward a deep puddle.

2. Nia lunged, but her boots sank into sticky mud. Leo chased the packet past the watering can. It wedged beneath the low garden bench, just an inch from the puddle. The wind pushed at one corner, and the paper began to slide. Nia grabbed a narrow twig. She stretched across the mud and hooked the packet before it reached the water.

3. Leo held the bench steady while Nia pulled the packet free. Its edge was damp, but the seeds inside were dry. Nia poured the striped seeds into the holes, then Leo covered them with soft soil. They pressed the soil flat with their palms. When the gate rattled again, Nia tucked the empty packet into her pocket and laughed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which word in paragraph 1 tells how the gate sounded in the wind? What sound does it help you imagine?

2. Which word in paragraph 1 shows how the packet moved across the dirt? What does that word add to the chase?

3. Which word in paragraph 2 shows why the packet stopped beneath the bench? What does it tell you about the packet?

4. Which word in paragraph 2 shows how Nia caught the packet with the twig? What action does it describe?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences about a child saving something that blows away. Use a specific sound word and two precise action words to show what happens and how the child solves the problem.

ANSWER KEY

Words in Motion

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.40.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words that help you hear or feel the windy day. Circle three action words that show what Nia or Leo does. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word in paragraph 1 tells how the gate sounded in the wind? What sound does it help you imagine?	**Rattled. It suggests a quick, shaking clatter.**
2	Which word in paragraph 1 shows how the packet moved across the dirt? What does that word add to the chase?	**Skittered. It shows the packet moving quickly and unevenly, making it hard to catch.**
3	Which word in paragraph 2 shows why the packet stopped beneath the bench? What does it tell you about the packet?	**Wedged. It tells the reader the packet was stuck in a tight space.**
4	Which word in paragraph 2 shows how Nia caught the packet with the twig? What action does it describe?	**Hooked. Nia caught the packet with the twig and pulled it toward her.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A gust snatched Eli's red scarf at the bus stop. It struck a metal sign with a loud clang. Eli darted around a trash can and pinned the scarf beneath his shoe. He picked it up and tied it snugly around his neck.

Accept descriptions that match each named word and its role in the story. In Part 3, look for a clear problem and solution developed with a specific sound word and two precise action words.