Words Change the Mood

Notice how word choices shift a scene from uneasy to hopeful.

4.LF.10.a "Explain how specific word choices shape meaning or tone."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle four vivid words that shape the garden's mood, then write E beside words that make it feel uneasy and H beside words that make it feel hopeful.

The Garden After the Wind

1. On Saturday morning, Mina reached the school garden before anyone else. The gate squealed as she pushed it open. Last night's wind had scattered leaves across the path and knocked over the sign for the tomato patch. A sunflower drooped against its stake. Mina stepped around a puddle and saw a thin green stem lying in the mud. Her stomach tightened.

2. Then a soft rustle came from the far corner. Under a pile of leaves, Mina found three tiny pumpkin shoots standing straight. She brushed the leaves away and called to her friends, who hurried through the gate. Together they lifted the sign, tied the sunflower to its stake, and tucked the fallen stem into fresh soil. The work was slow, but no one complained.

3. By noon, the path looked neat again. Sunlight spilled through the clouds and warmed Mina's muddy hands. A bee buzzed past the sunflower, which now stood tall. Mina could not tell if the fallen stem would grow, but she hoped it would. She pressed the soil gently around it. At the gate, the repaired sign pointed visitors toward the tomato patch once more.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does “squealed” make the gate feel at the start? How would “opened” feel different?

2. What does “drooped” suggest about the sunflower? How does that word add to the mood?

3. What does “tucked” show about how Mina and her friends handle the fallen stem?

4. How does “spilled” in “Sunlight spilled through the clouds” change the feeling of the scene?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a place that changes from uneasy to welcoming. Use one vivid word in each sentence, then write a third sentence explaining how your words change the mood.

ANSWER KEY

Words Change the Mood

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.10.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle four vivid words that shape the garden's mood, then write E beside words that make it feel uneasy and H beside words that make it feel hopeful. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does “squealed” make the gate feel at the start? How would “opened” feel different?	**“Squealed” gives the gate a sharp, uneasy sound. “Opened” would not create that feeling.**
2	What does “drooped” suggest about the sunflower? How does that word add to the mood?	**The sunflower looks bent and weak, which adds to the uneasy mood.**
3	What does “tucked” show about how Mina and her friends handle the fallen stem?	**“Tucked” suggests they handle the stem gently and with care.**
4	How does “spilled” in “Sunlight spilled through the clouds” change the feeling of the scene?	**“Spilled” makes the sunlight seem plentiful and bright, giving the scene a more hopeful feeling.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The swings creaked in the empty playground. Soon, warm laughter bubbled across the yard. “Creaked” makes the place feel uneasy, while “bubbled” makes it feel welcoming.

Accept other circled words and answers when students explain how the specific word creates an uneasy or hopeful feeling. The open response should contain three sentences and explain the effect of a vivid word from each of the first two.