A Different Shadow

How word choice and style change a reader's feelings

5.LF.12.d "Explain how an author's vocabulary and style influence the tone and mood of a text and support his/her purpose for writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two words or phrases that make the bat seem frightening, underline two that make it seem welcome, and write 1 beside the sentence that best shows why the author wrote this passage.

The Visitor at Dusk

1. At the community garden, dusk slipped between the tomato vines. A dark shape darted past my ear, and I ducked behind a watering can. Its wings cut sharp lines across the pale sky. "A bat," whispered Maya. I held my breath. In the sudden quiet, even the leaves seemed to wait. I had always imagined bats as spooky visitors from old stories.

2. Then the bat swooped over the beds again and again. Tiny moths fluttered near the lettuce, and the bat chased them through the air. Maya pointed upward. "Bats eat flying insects," she said. The bat did not dive at us. It danced above the garden, quick and light, while we watched from the path. Soon I stepped out from behind the watering can.

3. By the time the moon rose, I was no longer hiding. The bat swept past like a small, silent kite, then vanished beyond the fence. I looked at the garden with new eyes. What had seemed like a frightening shadow was a hungry neighbor hunting its supper. If we want this nighttime visitor to return, we can protect places where bats can rest safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two words or phrases in paragraph 1 create an uneasy mood? Explain how they affect you as a reader.

2. How does the word “danced” in paragraph 2 change the tone of the bat's movements from paragraph 1?

3. How does the short sentence “I held my breath” affect the pace and mood of paragraph 1?

4. How do “hungry neighbor” and the final sentence help show the author's purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a spider in a garden to help a reader see it as useful, not scary. Start with a tense mood, shift to a hopeful mood, and end with a sentence that shows your purpose.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.LF.12.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two words or phrases that make the bat seem frightening, underline two that make it seem welcome, and write 1 beside the sentence that best shows why the author wrote this passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two words or phrases in paragraph 1 create an uneasy mood? Explain how they affect you as a reader.	**“A dark shape” and “I held my breath” make the bat seem mysterious and the narrator seem afraid.**
2	How does the word “danced” in paragraph 2 change the tone of the bat's movements from paragraph 1?	**“Danced” makes the bat's movements seem playful rather than threatening.**
3	How does the short sentence “I held my breath” affect the pace and mood of paragraph 1?	**It creates a sudden pause that adds suspense.**
4	How do “hungry neighbor” and the final sentence help show the author's purpose?	**“Hungry neighbor” makes the bat seem familiar rather than scary. The final sentence encourages readers to protect places where bats can rest.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A spider's thin legs crept from a dark corner, and I froze. Then its web glittered in the sunlight as it caught a fly near our picnic. Let's leave garden spiders in peace because they help catch insects.

For the marking job, accept words such as “dark shape” and “spooky” for fear, and “danced” and “hungry neighbor” for welcome. Accept other answers that explain how a specific word or sentence affects tone, mood, or purpose.