When Shelter Leaks

Analyze how a recorded public comment moves its listeners.

8.CL.7 "Critique the speaker's use of hyperbole, tone, symbolism, imagery, mood, irony, and onomatopoeia in a live or recorded presentation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two sensory details, circle two sound words, and write 1 beside an exaggeration and 2 beside an ironic description. Use your marks to consider how the speaker makes the need for repairs feel urgent.

A Message from Alder Street

1 Council members, I am recording this message at the bus stop on Alder Street. [Rain taps the roof.] Tick, tick, tick. Water slips through a crack and lands on the bench. My coat smells like wet cardboard, and the metal seat chills my legs. A shelter should keep riders dry, yet this one gives the rain a front-row seat. I could wait a thousand winters for the next bus while the water finds its way inside. [Pause.] That is how long ten cold minutes can feel.

2 [Voice grows firmer.] Above the bench hangs a faded blue umbrella, left there by a neighbor for anyone to borrow. It is too small to cover a crowd, but it has become our sign of looking out for one another. Yesterday, a student held it over an older rider's grocery bags. Then a drop slid off the umbrella and landed on the student's nose. Plop! We laughed, but the rider still had to stand in a puddle to keep her shoes dry.

3 [Slowly.] I am not asking the city to stop the rain. I am asking you to repair the roof and move the bench away from the leak. The empty patch beneath the roof looks safe from the sidewalk, but a rider discovers the truth only after sitting down. If this is what we call a shelter, the word is doing more work than the roof. [Pause.] Please come here during a storm, hear the drops strike the seat, and decide whether our neighbors should keep lending their umbrellas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do “Tick, tick, tick” and the image of water landing on the bench shape the mood for listeners?

2. Does “a thousand winters” strengthen the speaker’s request or make it less credible? Explain using the ten-minute detail.

3. What does the blue umbrella stand for, and how does the grocery-bag moment make it an effective symbol?

4. How does the ironic description of the shelter affect the speaker’s tone? Use one phrase from the speech.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence script for a recorded public comment about a noisy school hallway between classes. Use a sound word and a vivid sensory image to support a request for change, then write one sentence explaining how those choices affect listeners.

ANSWER KEY

When Shelter Leaks

GRADE 8 · 8.CL.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two sensory details, circle two sound words, and write 1 beside an exaggeration and 2 beside an ironic description. Use your marks to consider how the speaker makes the need for repairs feel urgent. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do "Tick, tick, tick" and the image of water landing on the bench shape the mood for listeners?	**The repeated sound and image of a wet seat create an uncomfortable, uneasy mood. They help listeners imagine waiting there.**
2	Does "a thousand winters" strengthen the speaker's request or make it less credible? Explain using the ten-minute detail.	**It strengthens the request by showing how long a cold, wet wait feels. The speaker immediately names the actual wait as ten minutes, so the exaggeration is clearly not a factual claim.**
3	What does the blue umbrella stand for, and how does the grocery-bag moment make it an effective symbol?	**The umbrella stands for neighbors caring for one another. The student holding it over the rider's groceries shows that care in action, while its small size shows that kindness cannot replace a working shelter.**
4	How does the ironic description of the shelter affect the speaker's tone? Use one phrase from the speech.	**The irony gives the request a pointed, critical tone. For example, saying that "the word is doing more work than the roof" stresses that the shelter fails at its basic job.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Lee, the hallway outside the library becomes crowded between classes. Locker doors go clang, and the sound seems to rattle the books in my hands. Please ask students to close lockers gently and keep the doorway clear. A quieter path would help everyone reach class safely. The sound word and the image of rattling books create a tense mood that supports my firm but respectful request.

Accept interpretations supported by specific words or audio cues in the transcript. For Part 3, look for a four-sentence script, a separate sentence critiquing the effect of its sound word and sensory image, and a clear request.