Thing or Action

Use the sentence to find a word's meaning.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

THING

A multiple-meaning word can name a person, place, animal, or thing. Use the sentence to decide what it names.

The plant needs water.

ACTION

A multiple-meaning word can show an action. Use the sentence to decide what happens.

Plant the seeds in a row.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle THING or ACTION for each sentence; Part 2: pick two items and explain which words in the sentences helped you decide.

1. "Duck" under the table when the ball flies by. THING ACTION

2. The "duck" swims in the pond. THING ACTION

3. Blue "paint" spilled on the paper. THING ACTION

4. "Paint" a picture of your family. THING ACTION

5. The "ring" is made of gold. THING ACTION

6. The bells "ring" at noon. THING ACTION

7. The "light" shines from the lamp. THING ACTION

8. "Light" the candle carefully. THING ACTION

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 3: Write one sentence with a word that names a THING and one sentence with a word that shows an ACTION.

THING _____

ACTION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word that can be a THING or an ACTION. Write two sentences that show its two meanings.

ANSWER KEY

Thing or Action

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	"Duck" under the table when the ball flies by.	**ACTION**	Duck means to lower your body quickly.
2	The "duck" swims in the pond.	**THING**	Duck names an animal.
3	Blue "paint" spilled on the paper.	**THING**	Paint names a material used to make pictures.
4	"Paint" a picture of your family.	**ACTION**	Paint tells what to do.
5	The "ring" is made of gold.	**THING**	Ring names a piece of jewelry.
6	The bells "ring" at noon.	**ACTION**	Ring tells what the bells do.
7	The "light" shines from the lamp.	**THING**	Light names the brightness from the lamp.
8	"Light" the candle carefully.	**ACTION**	Light tells what to do to the candle.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **THING**: The wave crashed on the shore.
- **ACTION**: Wave to your friend across the room.

Challenge: The bat slept in the cave. The player will bat in the game.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept student examples when the sentence clearly shows whether the word names a thing or shows an action. For Part 2, students may point to context words such as pond, gold, bells, or candle.