Garden Words Wake

Notice comparisons, nonliteral actions, and precise shades of meaning.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.5 "Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four phrases that give a human action to something in nature. Circle the word that signals a comparison, so you can explain how the language creates a picture.

Maya's Garden Morning

1. On Saturday, Maya carried a tray of bean seeds to the community garden. The morning sun peeked over the fence, and dew sparkled on the lettuce leaves. Maya chose a dry patch beside the tomatoes. She loosened the soil with a trowel, dropped in each seed, and covered it with a thin blanket of earth. Nearby, a robin hopped between rows, hunting for worms.

2. By noon, a breeze slipped through the garden like a quiet visitor. The bean leaves danced, and the tall sunflowers nodded above Maya's head. She poured water slowly around the new seeds. The thirsty ground drank every drop. Maya smiled when the tomato plants seemed to thank her with their bright, green scent. Clouds gathered, but only a few soft raindrops fell.

3. Before leaving, Maya checked the soil with one finger. It felt damp, not muddy or soaked. She placed a small wooden sign beside the row: "Beans." The garden was quiet again, except for the robin's quick chirps. Maya walked home with dirty knees and a hopeful heart. She imagined green shoots pushing upward, ready to greet the next warm day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which words show the sun doing something people do? What do these words suggest?

2. What is compared to a quiet visitor? How are they alike?

3. What does "The thirsty ground drank every drop" mean?

4. What does damp tell you about the soil? Use muddy and soaked to explain the word's exact meaning.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a different outdoor place. In one sentence, use a comparison with like or as. In the other, use a precise word that shows how wet something is and include clues that show its meaning.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four phrases that give a human action to something in nature. Circle the word that signals a comparison, so you can explain how the language creates a picture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words show the sun doing something people do? What do these words suggest?	**"The morning sun peeked over the fence." It suggests that the sun appeared slowly above the fence.**
2	What is compared to a quiet visitor? How are they alike?	**The breeze is compared to a quiet visitor. Both move through gently and quietly.**
3	What does "The thirsty ground drank every drop" mean?	**The dry soil absorbed all the water quickly.**
4	What does damp tell you about the soil? Use muddy and soaked to explain the word's exact meaning.	**Damp means slightly wet. It is less wet than muddy or soaked.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the pond, the reeds swayed like dancers in the breeze. After the storm, the path was soaked, and water filled the small footprints.

Accept equivalent explanations of the figurative phrases and the comparison. For Part 3, accept two sentences about an outdoor place that include a clear like or as comparison and a precise wetness word supported by context.