Tide Pool Clues

Use context to explain similes and metaphors.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.5a "Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., as pretty as a picture) in context."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each simile and circle each metaphor in the passage. Number the comparisons, then use nearby details to decide what each one means.

Maya's Tide Pool Visit

1. On Saturday, Maya visited a rocky tide pool with her uncle. At low tide, the pool was a small aquarium, holding sea stars, snails, and waving green seaweed. Sunlight flashed on the water like scattered coins. Maya leaned close, but she kept her hands dry. The animals needed a safe home while they waited for the ocean to return.

2. A purple sea star clung to a wet rock. Its five arms were as still as sleeping sticks, even when a wave splashed nearby. Beside it, a crab hurried under a ledge. The crab was a sideways racer, darting over the sand to hide from a hungry gull. Maya wrote notes in her field journal and watched without touching.

3. Before leaving, Maya saw a line of tiny bubbles rise from a crack. The bubbles were little silver balloons, floating toward the bright surface. Farther out, the incoming water was as noisy as a busy cafeteria. It rushed between the rocks and covered the pool. Maya stepped back, knowing the tide pool would soon become part of the wide sea again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the metaphor “a small aquarium” mean in paragraph 1?

2. What does “Sunlight flashed on the water like scattered coins” help you picture?

3. Is “The crab was a sideways racer” a simile or a metaphor? What does it mean?

4. What does the simile “as noisy as a busy cafeteria” mean in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about an outdoor place. Use one simile in the first sentence and one metaphor in the second sentence, then explain what both comparisons mean in the third sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Tide Pool Clues

GRADE 4 · L.4.5a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each simile and circle each metaphor in the passage. Number the comparisons, then use nearby details to decide what each one means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the metaphor "a small aquarium" mean in paragraph 1?	**The tide pool was a small place that held several kinds of sea animals and plants, like an aquarium.**
2	What does "Sunlight flashed on the water like scattered coins" help you picture?	**It helps the reader picture many small, bright flashes of light sparkling on the water.**
3	Is "The crab was a sideways racer" a simile or a metaphor? What does it mean?	**It is a metaphor. It means the crab moved quickly sideways across the sand.**
4	What does the simile "as noisy as a busy cafeteria" mean in paragraph 3?	**The incoming water was very loud as it rushed between the rocks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The forest path was as quiet as a library. The stream was a silver ribbon winding between the trees. These comparisons show that the path was very quiet and the stream looked long, shiny, and curved.

The passage has three similes: "like scattered coins," "as still as sleeping sticks," and "as noisy as a busy cafeteria." It has three metaphors: "a small aquarium," "a sideways racer," and "little silver balloons"; accept equivalent explanations supported by the nearby details.