Wetland Words at Night

Read how word choices shape a nighttime scene.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5 "Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that gives a nonhuman thing a human action or compares one thing to another. Circle movement words that show how Maya or the raccoon moves, and box the opposite words in the last paragraph.

A Walk by the Pond

1. On Friday evening, Maya joined her uncle at a wetland trail. The sun slipped behind the hills, and the sky turned purple. Reeds whispered beside the boardwalk as a cool breeze moved through them. Maya carried a small notebook, hoping to record the animals she saw. Near the pond, a frog croaked, then another answered from the muddy edge.

2. At first, Maya stepped quietly, so she would not splash in the shallow water. Then she crept closer to a patch of cattails when she heard a soft rustle. A raccoon appeared, its masked face bright in the moonlight. It paused, searched the ground, and finally trotted into the grass. Maya wrote that the animal seemed cautious, not frightened.

3. Above the pond, fireflies blinked on and off. Soon, tiny lamps floated over the water, making a river of light between the dark banks. Maya's notebook filled with quick notes and sketches. When the trail became silent, she listened carefully. The quiet was a soft blanket around her, and she wished the walk could last longer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase “Reeds whispered” mean in the first paragraph?

2. What does “a river of light” describe in the last paragraph?

3. How is the meaning of crept different from the meaning of trotted?

4. How are the words on and off related in the sentence about fireflies?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about an outdoor place at dusk. Include one metaphor or personification, one pair of opposite words, and one precise movement verb. Underline the figurative phrase, circle the opposite words, and box the movement verb.

ANSWER KEY

Wetland Words at Night

GRADE 5 · L.5.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that gives a nonhuman thing a human action or compares one thing to another. Circle movement words that show how Maya or the raccoon moves, and box the opposite words in the last paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase “Reeds whispered” mean in the first paragraph?	**The breeze moved the reeds and made a soft sound.**
2	What does “a river of light” describe in the last paragraph?	**It describes the many fireflies glowing over the pond.**
3	How is the meaning of crept different from the meaning of trotted?	**Crept means moved slowly and quietly. Trotted means moved with quicker, light steps.**
4	How are the words on and off related in the sentence about fireflies?	**They are opposites.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dusk, __the garden held its breath__ as the first stars appeared. (Light) and (dark) traded places while a rabbit [darted] beneath the fence. The flowers lifted their sleepy faces toward the moon.

Accept accurate explanations of figurative phrases and reasonable descriptions of word nuance. For Part 3, accept any three sentences with a clear figurative phrase, an opposite pair, and a specific movement verb that are marked as directed.