Lanterns After Sunset

Notice how comparisons and precise verbs shape a scene.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.5 "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 compares unlike things or gives a nonhuman thing a human action. Circle the movement verbs dashed and drifted, then use your marks to notice how language creates images and different feelings.

Festival Lights

1 On the evening of the town's summer festival, Maya carried a box of lanterns to the park. The sun slipped behind the hills, and the river became a ribbon of dull silver. Near the bandstand, volunteers hurried to hang paper stars between the trees. Maya paused beside the oldest oak. Its branches stretched over the benches like a giant's arms. She set one lantern on the ground, then noticed a small boy watching the preparations from the path.

2 The boy did not speak, but his eyes followed every lantern. Maya asked whether he wanted to help. He nodded and took a spool of twine. Together, they worked along the path, tying lanterns to low branches. When a gust shook the trees, several flames trembled, but none went out. The boy grinned. “They look brave,” he said. Maya smiled and carefully placed the last lantern near the riverbank, where its light quivered on the water.

3 As music began, families drifted toward the bandstand. Some children dashed across the grass to claim places near the front, while grandparents followed them in pairs. Maya and the boy walked back to the oak. The lanterns now dotted the park with tiny moons. He held up the empty twine spool as if it were a prize. Above them, the paper stars whispered in the breeze, and the dark park no longer seemed lonely to anyone standing beneath the trees during the warm evening.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What picture does the comparison of the oak branches to a giant's arms create?

2. In the phrase “the river became a ribbon of dull silver,” what does ribbon suggest about the river's appearance?

3. How does dashed differ from drifted in paragraph 3? Use each word's context to explain the difference.

4. What does it mean that the paper stars “whispered in the breeze”? What mood does this phrase help create?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about preparing for a school or community event. Use one simile or metaphor and two movement verbs that show different speeds or styles, then explain the difference between those verbs in your fourth sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Lanterns After Sunset

GRADE 7 · L.7.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that compares unlike things or gives a nonhuman thing a human action. Circle the movement verbs dashed and drifted, then use your marks to notice how language creates images and different feelings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What picture does the comparison of the oak branches to a giant's arms create?	**It creates an image of large branches stretching broadly over the benches.**
2	In the phrase "the river became a ribbon of dull silver," what does ribbon suggest about the river's appearance?	**It suggests that the river looks long, narrow, and silver-colored in the fading light.**
3	How does dashed differ from drifted in paragraph 3? Use each word's context to explain the difference.	**Dashed suggests quick, energetic movement, while drifted suggests slower, gentle movement.**
4	What does it mean that the paper stars "whispered in the breeze"? What mood does this phrase help create?	**The stars made a soft rustling sound as they moved. The phrase creates a quiet, peaceful mood.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the school fair, I hurried across the gym to deliver posters. My friend wandered behind me, checking each sign for loose tape. By noon, the bright banners were a row of sails above the tables. Hurried shows quick, purposeful movement, while wandered suggests slower, less directed movement.

Accept reasonable explanations of the figurative phrases when students connect each phrase to details in the scene. For Part 3, accept varied topics and wording if the response has four sentences, includes a clear comparison, uses two contrasting movement verbs, and accurately explains their difference.