Harbor Word Hunt

Find words that mean more than they say.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4 "Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the five phrases that have a meaning different from their exact words. Write N beside each one, then circle one nearby sentence that explains an underlined phrase.

Maya at the Lighthouse

1. On Saturday, Maya visited the small lighthouse museum by the harbor. Outside, gulls called over the water, and a salty wind blew against her hat. Inside, a guide showed her a lamp with a bright glass lens. The lens once helped ships see the shore at night. Maya thought the old tower looked like a giant candle standing on the rocks.

2. When the guide switched on a smaller lamp, light spilled across a wall. Maya's little brother Leo whispered, "That beam is a path for boats." The guide smiled and explained that lighthouse beams can be seen far away. Leo did not mean that boats could walk on the light. He meant the light showed sailors where land and rocks were.

3. Later, dark clouds gathered, and rain fell on the museum windows. Maya said, "The sky is angry today." Her father looked outside. He knew the sky could not truly feel anger. Maya meant that dark clouds and loud thunder made the storm seem dangerous. Soon the rain stopped, and the harbor became calm again. The lighthouse kept watching over the shore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, is "looked like a giant candle" literal or nonliteral? What does it tell you about the lighthouse?

2. What does "light spilled across a wall" mean in paragraph 2?

3. What words show that Maya does not mean "The sky is angry today" literally? What does the phrase mean?

4. What does "The lighthouse kept watching over the shore" mean? Is the lighthouse really watching?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a place you know. In the first sentence, use a nonliteral phrase. In the second sentence, explain what your phrase really means.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · RL.3.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the five phrases that have a meaning different from their exact words. Write N beside each one, then circle one nearby sentence that explains an underlined phrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, is "looked like a giant candle" literal or nonliteral? What does it tell you about the lighthouse?	**It is nonliteral. It tells that the lighthouse looked tall and narrow, with a light at the top.**
2	What does "light spilled across a wall" mean in paragraph 2?	**The light spread across the wall.**
3	What words show that Maya does not mean "The sky is angry today" literally? What does the phrase mean?	**"The sky could not truly feel anger" shows it is nonliteral. The phrase means the storm looked and sounded dangerous.**
4	What does "The lighthouse kept watching over the shore" mean? Is the lighthouse really watching?	**It means the lighthouse stood by the shore and helped guide ships. No, it is not really watching.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The playground was a buzzing beehive at recess. This means many children moved and talked busily, not that bees were there.

Expected nonliteral phrases include "giant candle," "light spilled," "a path for boats," "sky is angry," and "watching over the shore." Accept other reasonable responses when the student correctly explains that the words are not meant exactly as stated.