Lanterns in the Rain

Use context clues to interpret figurative language in a story.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4 "Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every phrase that makes a comparison or gives words a nonliteral meaning, then circle the nearby words that help you figure out each phrase.

The Festival Shelter

1. On the morning of the town's lantern festival, Maya carried a box of paper lanterns to the park. Dark clouds gathered above the river, and the wind tugged at the box lid. By noon, rain drummed on the picnic tables. The festival committee hurried beneath the pavilion, while Maya watched the empty path, a gray ribbon leading into the mist.

2. Then Mr. Chen, the park gardener, pointed to a shed near the playground. Its roof is sturdy, he said. Inside, Maya found strings, tape, and a small battery lamp. An idea sparked in her mind. She asked the committee to hang lanterns along the shed walls. Soon, the gloomy room became a pocket of sunrise, glowing with red, gold, and blue paper.

3. Families arrived wearing raincoats and carrying umbrellas. At first, Maya worried that the tiny shelter would feel crowded. Instead, neighbors squeezed together, traded stories, and shared warm cider. Laughter rose above the rain. Maya realized that the storm had not washed away the festival. It had pushed the town closer, like books pressed neatly onto one shelf.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase “a gray ribbon leading into the mist” mean?

2. What does “An idea sparked in her mind” mean in paragraph 2?

3. In paragraph 2, what does “a pocket of sunrise” tell you about the shed after the lanterns were hung?

4. What does the simile “like books pressed neatly onto one shelf” show about how the storm pushed the town closer?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Read this text: “During the noisy assembly, Nia slipped into the library. Pages turned softly while the crowd roared in the gym, and the library was an island of calm.” In exactly two sentences, explain what “an island of calm” means and name one detail that helped you determine its meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Lanterns in the Rain

GRADE 5 · RL.5.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every phrase that makes a comparison or gives words a nonliteral meaning, then circle the nearby words that help you figure out each phrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does the phrase "a gray ribbon leading into the mist" mean?	**It means the empty path looked long, narrow, gray, and disappearing into the mist.**
2	What does "An idea sparked in her mind" mean in paragraph 2?	**Maya suddenly thought of an idea.**
3	In paragraph 2, what does "a pocket of sunrise" tell you about the shed after the lanterns were hung?	**The shed became a small, bright, warm-looking place filled with lantern light.**
4	What does the simile "like books pressed neatly onto one shelf" show about how the storm pushed the town closer?	**It shows that the neighbors were gathered closely together and became more connected.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The phrase means the library was a quiet, peaceful place away from the noise. The detail that pages turned softly while the assembly roared in the gym helps show that it was calm.

Accept equivalent explanations that use passage context to explain each phrase, not only a dictionary definition. For the open task, accept two sentences that explain the metaphor and cite the contrast between the soft pages and the roaring assembly.