# Storm Signal

Analyze figurative language and sound patterns in a suspenseful scene.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4** "Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g...."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two phrases whose meanings are not literal or that carry strong feelings. Circle one repeated word or group of words and one set of nearby words that begin with the same sound, then note what each sound choice adds to the scene.

### The Lighthouse Lamp

1 At dusk, Mara climbed the lighthouse stairs as wind worried the windows. Below, the harbor held its breath, boats bobbing like black buttons on the bay. She carried a brass key, warm from her pocket, and listened to the steady step, step, step of her boots. The old tower did not speak, yet its narrow walls seemed to lean close. Outside, gulls gave sharp cries, and the sea slapped the rocks with a restless hand.

2 Then the storm arrived, dragging a gray curtain across the moon. Mara turned the lamp's wheel, and the beam swept the water, bright blade after bright blade. "Stay clear," it seemed to say, though no voice left the glass. Far out, a fishing boat flashed once, then twice. Mara's fear was a small cold pebble, but she kept turning, turning, turning the wheel until the light found the boat again. Near the shore, reeds rattled, rattled, rattled in the rain.

3 Near midnight, the clouds loosened, and a pale path opened over the water. The waves still whispered, "wait, wait," against the pier, but their anger had faded. Mara watched the boat move toward the harbor, its tiny lantern blinking back at hers. When it passed safely between the rocks, she let out the breath she had been saving. In the quiet tower, the key in her pocket felt heavier, not because it had changed, but because the night had.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase "the harbor held its breath" suggest about the harbor before the storm?

2. What does the "gray curtain" in paragraph 2 represent? How does this phrase affect the storm's mood?

3. How does the repetition of "turning, turning, turning" affect your understanding of Mara's actions?

4. How does the alliteration in "boats bobbing like black buttons on the bay" affect the description?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-scene about a person facing a challenge. Include one figurative or strongly connotative phrase and one sound repetition through alliteration or a repeated word, then explain in the third sentence what one choice makes the reader feel or imagine.

ANSWER KEY

# Storm Signal

GRADE 7 · RL.7.4

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases whose meanings are not literal or that carry strong feelings. Circle one repeated word or group of words and one set of nearby words that begin with the same sound, then note what each sound choice adds to the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does the phrase "the harbor held its breath" suggest about the harbor before the storm? | **It suggests that the harbor is unusually still and tense, which builds suspense before the storm.** |
| 2 | What does the "gray curtain" in paragraph 2 represent? How does this phrase affect the storm's mood? | **It represents storm clouds covering the moon. It makes the storm seem as if it is shutting out light and making the scene more threatening.** |
| 3 | How does the repetition of "turning, turning, turning" affect your understanding of Mara's actions? | **The repetition emphasizes that Mara keeps working urgently and persistently to guide the boat.** |
| 4 | How does the alliteration in "boats bobbing like black buttons on the bay" affect the description? | **The repeated b sound creates a bouncing rhythm that echoes the boats moving on the water and makes the image vivid.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the starting line, Jay's stomach was a drum, and the track stretched like a river before him. His shoes whispered, "run, run," as he raced past the red, roaring crowd. The repeated word shows his urgent focus and makes the race feel fast.

Accept supported explanations of figurative and connotative meanings that connect to the stormy, suspenseful mood. For the open task, accept varied scenes if they include the required language choices and a clear explanation of one choice's effect.