Details in Motion

Notice how exact details make a moment feel real.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3d "Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three precise action words and circle three details that appeal to the senses. These choices show what happens and help you experience the scene.

The Lantern Trail

1 At dusk, Maya followed the narrow trail behind the community garden, carrying a paper lantern for the festival. Rain from the afternoon clung to the weeds and darkened the soil. Her sneakers sank softly with each step. Ahead, the trail bent between two maples, where the last orange light trembled through wet leaves. A cool, earthy smell rose from the ground as Maya listened for her brother. A bicycle bell rang faintly near the playground, then stopped.

2 Then a sharp crack snapped from the brush. Maya froze beside a low stone wall. Her lantern swung, spilling a pale circle across the path. A small fox burst from beneath a pile of branches. Mud streaked its red-brown fur, and its black paws tapped quickly over the stones. The fox paused, whiskers twitching, before it slipped through a gap in the fence. Maya let out a shaky breath and pressed her hand against her warm cheek.

3 At the garden gate, Maya spotted her brother crouched beside a wooden bench. He held a glass jar with a firefly blinking inside. Its green light pulsed against the glass, bright then dim. "I thought I lost you," he said. Maya laughed, and the tight knot in her stomach loosened. Together, they walked toward the festival, their lantern and jar casting small, moving lights over the rain-slick path. Behind them, the maples whispered in the evening breeze.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details show that the trail is wet? Copy the words or phrases from the passage.

2. Which sense is used in the phrase “A cool, earthy smell rose from the ground”? What does the detail help you imagine?

3. Copy two details that show Maya’s reaction when she hears the crack.

4. Which action words describe the fox moving quickly? What picture do these words create?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a moment when you notice an unexpected animal or object. Include one precise action word, one sensory detail, and a feeling shown through an action or body reaction instead of naming the feeling.

ANSWER KEY

Details in Motion

GRADE 7 · W.7.3d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three precise action words and circle three details that appeal to the senses. These choices show what happens and help you experience the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details show that the trail is wet? Copy the words or phrases from the passage.	**"Rain from the afternoon clung to the weeds and darkened the soil" and "Her sneakers sank softly with each step."**
2	Which sense is used in the phrase "A cool, earthy smell rose from the ground"? What does the detail help you imagine?	**Smell. It helps the reader imagine the damp, earthy scent of the garden after rain.**
3	Copy two details that show Maya's reaction when she hears the crack.	**"Maya froze beside a low stone wall" and "Maya let out a shaky breath and pressed her hand against her warm cheek."**
4	Which action words describe the fox moving quickly? What picture do these words create?	**"Burst," "tapped," and "slipped." They create a picture of a quick, light-footed fox rushing across the stones and escaping through the fence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On the pier, a gull swooped over my sandwich, its white wings flashing in the sun. I jerked my hand back as the bird's rough cry scraped across the water. It snatched a crumb and glided past the salty railings.

Accept answers that quote or accurately identify relevant wording from the passage. For Part 3, check for exactly three sentences, a precise action word, a sensory detail, and a feeling conveyed through behavior or a physical reaction.