Storm Mood Shift

Track figurative language as an uneasy scene becomes hopeful.

ELA.10.R.3.1 "Analyze how figurative language creates mood in text(s)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each simile, metaphor, or example of personification. Then place a 1, 2, or 3 beside one phrase in each paragraph that most strongly shapes that paragraph's mood.

The Hilltop Dome

1 By the time Lena reached the hilltop observatory, the last visitors had gone. Rain tapped the dome like impatient fingers, and the gravel path behind her dissolved into a gray veil. Inside, the building smelled of dust and wet stone. Lena switched on her flashlight, but its narrow beam seemed too small for the rooms around it. The halls held their breath. Even the old telescope, pointed at a sky hidden by clouds, looked as if it were waiting for someone to speak first. The silence pressed close.

2 At the control room door, Lena found a note from her grandfather: "Storms pass. Keep the lens covered." His familiar handwriting should have steadied her, yet the words trembled on the paper because her hands trembled. A sudden gust shoved rain against the windows. The sound rushed through the dome, a river searching for a way in. Lena imagined the storm climbing the walls, testing every seam. For one sharp moment, the observatory was not a shelter. It was a small boat, rocking alone beneath a black ocean.

3 Then the backup generator coughed, sputtered, and began to hum. Its steady rhythm spread through the floor and into Lena's shoes. She pulled the protective cover over the telescope and checked the window latches. Outside, thunder still rolled across the hill, but it no longer sounded like a threat. It became a distant drum, keeping time for the rain. When a pale break opened in the clouds, Lena climbed the stairs. The dome petals parted slowly, and the telescope lifted its glass eye toward one clear star.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the personification “The halls held their breath” shape the mood in paragraph 1?

2. In paragraph 2, how do the “river searching for a way in” and the “small boat” beneath a “black ocean” affect the mood?

3. How does the description of thunder as “a distant drum” change the mood from earlier in the passage?

4. Compare the telescope that seems to be “waiting for someone to speak” with the telescope lifting its “glass eye” toward a clear star. How do these images show a mood shift?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 to 4 sentences describing a familiar place during a weather event. Use at least one simile and one example of personification to create a clear mood, then state the mood in parentheses at the end.

ANSWER KEY

Storm Mood Shift

GRADE 10 · ELA.10.R.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each simile, metaphor, or example of personification. Then place a 1, 2, or 3 beside one phrase in each paragraph that most strongly shapes that paragraph's mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the personification "The halls held their breath" shape the mood in paragraph 1?	**It makes the silent building seem tense and expectant, creating an uneasy mood.**
2	In paragraph 2, how do the "river searching for a way in" and the "small boat" beneath a "black ocean" affect the mood?	**They make the storm seem powerful and invading, so Lena and the observatory feel trapped and vulnerable.**
3	How does the description of thunder as "a distant drum" change the mood from earlier in the passage?	**Earlier, the storm feels threatening. The distant drum makes it seem farther away and more manageable, creating a calmer mood.**
4	Compare the telescope that seems to be "waiting for someone to speak" with the telescope lifting its "glass eye" toward a clear star. How do these images show a mood shift?	**The first image creates nervous anticipation, while the second creates relief and hope as the storm begins to clear.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Snow swept across the empty bus stop like handfuls of white sand. The metal bench shivered beneath me, while the streetlights blinked their tired eyes through the storm. Each passing car whispered away, leaving the road quieter and colder. (Mood: lonely and uneasy.)

Accept reasonable identifications of figurative language and mood when students explain how specific words create that feeling. For Part 3, accept varied settings and moods if the response has 3 to 4 sentences, includes a simile and personification, and names a mood.