Garden Words Bloom

Notice how comparisons and human actions build meaning.

ELA.4.R.3.1 "Explain how figurative language contributes to meaning in text(s)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that compares unlike things or gives a nonhuman thing a human action. In the margin, write a brief note telling the picture or idea each phrase adds.

Maya's Garden Patch

1. On Saturday morning, Maya carried a packet of bean seeds to the community garden. The soil was a brown blanket, still cool from last night's rain. She pressed each seed into a small hole and tucked it in. Above her, clouds marched across the sky, but a strip of sunlight peeked through and warmed her hands.

2. By noon, green shoots stood in a row like tiny flags. Maya poured water from a can, and the thirsty ground drank every drop. A worm curled near her boot, shiny as a wet ribbon. Maya smiled. The garden was waking up for the day, she thought, and she had helped ring its morning bell.

3. A week later, Maya visited after school. The bean plants had pushed through the soil, lifting their bright leaves toward the sun. Bees buzzed around nearby flowers, busy little workers collecting nectar and pollen. Maya wrote in her garden notebook, "Our patch is a small green city." She knew the plants, insects, and worms all had jobs that helped the garden grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase "The soil was a brown blanket" help you picture?

2. The passage says that "the thirsty ground drank every drop." What does this mean, and how does it make the garden seem?

3. How do the comparisons "like tiny flags" and "shiny as a wet ribbon" help you imagine the shoots and the worm?

4. What does Maya mean when she calls the garden "a small green city"? How does this phrase add meaning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three or four sentences about a garden, park, or outdoor place. Include one comparison and one example of a nonhuman thing doing a human action, then explain what each phrase helps the reader picture or understand.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that compares unlike things or gives a nonhuman thing a human action. In the margin, write a brief note telling the picture or idea each phrase adds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase "The soil was a brown blanket" help you picture?	**It helps the reader picture cool brown soil covering the ground like a blanket.**
2	The passage says that "the thirsty ground drank every drop." What does this mean, and how does it make the garden seem?	**It means the soil absorbed the water quickly. It makes the ground seem alive and in need of water.**
3	How do the comparisons "like tiny flags" and "shiny as a wet ribbon" help you imagine the shoots and the worm?	**The shoots seem small and standing upright in a row, like flags. The worm seems smooth, long, and shiny, like a wet ribbon.**
4	What does Maya mean when she calls the garden "a small green city"? How does this phrase add meaning?	**She means that many living things are together and each has a job. The phrase shows how the garden works as a busy community.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At sunset, the tomato plants held red lanterns beneath their leaves. The breeze whispered through the basil. Calling the tomatoes lanterns helps readers picture their round, bright fruit, and whispering makes the garden seem quiet and alive.

Accept underlined comparisons, metaphors, similes, and personification that are supported by the passage. For the writing task, accept varied original figurative language if the student explains the meaning or image each example adds.