Harbor Light Signals

Notice how word choices, images, and patterns shape a poem's mood.

ELA.5.R.1.4 "Explain how figurative language and other poetic elements work together in a poem."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline figurative language, circle repeated words or phrases, and number two sensory images. Use your marks to notice how these choices work together to create meaning and mood.

The Harbor Light

1. At dusk, the lighthouse wakes its golden eye, sweeping the harbor where small boats rest. Waves clap their hands against the rocks, and gulls stitch white threads through the sky. From the pier, Mara counts each flash: one for home, one for sailors, one for sleep. The steady beam whispers, "Safe, safe, safe," while the tide keeps time below.

2. Clouds gather like gray blankets over the water, but the light does not blink. It reaches past the dark hills, a bright finger pointing toward shore. Mara hears the repeated call of the beam and feels her worried thoughts grow smaller. Each flash lands on the water, then disappears, like a promise folded into the night.

3. Far out, a fishing boat answers with one small lantern. Its light winks back, then shines again. Mara smiles as the harbor becomes a quiet conversation: flash, answer, flash, answer. The poem ends with the same tide keeping time, yet now its rhythm sounds like a lullaby. Night covers the shore, but the lighthouse eye remains open.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the lighthouse's "golden eye" and the repeated word "Safe" work together to show the lighthouse's role?

2. What does the simile "Clouds gather like gray blankets" help you picture? How does that image make the lighthouse beam seem?

3. How does the repeated pattern "flash, answer, flash, answer" work with the description of a "quiet conversation"?

4. The tide "keeps time" near the beginning and sounds "like a lullaby" near the end. How do these details work together to show a change in mood?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4 to 6 line poem about a place that feels safe. Include at least one simile or personification, one repeated word or phrase, and one sensory image. Then write exactly two sentences explaining how your choices work together to create the poem's mood.

ANSWER KEY

Harbor Light Signals

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.R.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline figurative language, circle repeated words or phrases, and number two sensory images. Use your marks to notice how these choices work together to create meaning and mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the lighthouse's "golden eye" and the repeated word "Safe" work together to show the lighthouse's role?	**The "golden eye" makes the lighthouse seem watchful, and "Safe" repeats its message of protection for people on the water.**
2	What does the simile "Clouds gather like gray blankets" help you picture? How does that image make the lighthouse beam seem?	**It helps the reader picture gray clouds covering the water. The dark image makes the unblinking beam seem bright, dependable, and important.**
3	How does the repeated pattern "flash, answer, flash, answer" work with the description of a "quiet conversation"?	**The repetition copies the back-and-forth signals between the lighthouse and boat, showing a calm connection across the harbor.**
4	The tide "keeps time" near the beginning and sounds "like a lullaby" near the end. How do these details work together to show a change in mood?	**The repeated tide detail connects the beginning and ending. Its rhythm changes from a steady beat to a soothing lullaby as Mara's worry becomes calm.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain taps drums on my windowpane, Streetlights paint puddles with gold. Tap, tap, tap, the dark grows softer. My room is a small boat floating in the storm. The personification of rain tapping drums and the image of gold puddles make the storm feel alive. The repeated "tap" creates a gentle rhythm, which works with the boat image to show that the room feels safe.

Accept equivalent answers that name a figurative language choice and a poetic element, such as repetition, imagery, or rhythm, and explain their combined effect. For the open task, check for all required poem parts and exactly two explanation sentences that connect the choices to mood.