Beach Words Sparkle

Notice how figurative language makes a beach cleanup scene vivid.

3.T.SS.2.a "Identify and describe the use of figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, and idioms in a wide variety of texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each simile, circle each metaphor, and number the two idioms in the passage. Then think about what each marked phrase helps you picture or understand.

Maya's Beach Cleanup

1 On Saturday, Maya joined her class at Harbor Beach for a cleanup. The morning sun was a golden coin above the water. Waves raced to shore like playful dogs, then slipped back. Maya carried a blue bag and a grabber. Her bucket was hungry for bottle caps, wrappers, and bits of fishing line near the sand.

2 Near the rocks, Maya spotted a tiny crab. Its shell shone like a smooth pebble. "Keep your eyes peeled," Mr. Ortiz called as he pointed toward the tide pools. Maya slowed down and looked at every tide pool. A plastic ring hid under wet seaweed. She lifted it with her grabber and placed it in her bag. "The beach needs our help," she said.

3 By noon, Maya's class had filled twelve bags with trash. The clean shore seemed to smile at them. Maya was on cloud nine as she watched a heron lift into the bright sky. Mr. Ortiz thanked the class, and Maya waved goodbye. She hoped the beach would stay safe for crabs, birds, and people all summer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two things are compared in the simile "Waves raced to shore like playful dogs"? What picture does this comparison create?

2. In paragraph 1, what does "Her bucket was hungry" mean? How does this metaphor make the bucket seem?

3. What does the idiom "Keep your eyes peeled" mean in paragraph 2? Why does Mr. Ortiz use it?

4. What does "on cloud nine" mean in paragraph 3? What does it show about Maya?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about caring for a place near you. Use one simile, one metaphor, and one idiom, and underline each figurative phrase.

ANSWER KEY # Beach Words Sparkle

GRADE 3 · 3.T.SS.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each simile, circle each metaphor, and number the two idioms in the passage. Then think about what each marked phrase helps you picture or understand. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two things are compared in the simile "Waves raced to shore like playful dogs"? What picture does this comparison create?	**The waves are compared to playful dogs. The comparison shows the waves moving quickly and energetically.**
2	In paragraph 1, what does "Her bucket was hungry" mean? How does this metaphor make the bucket seem?	**It means the bucket was ready to collect lots of trash. The metaphor makes the bucket seem eager.**
3	What does the idiom "Keep your eyes peeled" mean in paragraph 2? Why does Mr. Ortiz use it?	**It means watch very carefully. Mr. Ortiz uses it to help students notice litter near the tide pools.**
4	What does "on cloud nine" mean in paragraph 3? What does it show about Maya?	**It means very happy. It shows that Maya feels happy about the cleanup.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I cleaned my yard after a windy day. The yard was a leafy blanket, and the leaves spun like tiny dancers. I was all ears when my neighbor explained where to put the compost.

Accept correctly identified similes, metaphors, idioms, and reasonable explanations of what they mean or show. For Part 3, accept any three-sentence response about caring for a place that uses a clear simile, metaphor, and idiom.