Pronoun Detectives

Find sentences that point clearly.

4.L.GC.1.45 "Usage: Recognize and correct vague pronoun references. (Introduce)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR REFERENCE

A pronoun clearly points to one noun. You know exactly who or what the pronoun means.

A rabbit hops inside its burrow.

VAGUE REFERENCE

A pronoun could point to more than one noun, or to no noun. You cannot tell exactly who or what it means.

Mia spoke with Nora, and she smiled.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or VAGUE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. Darius hung his coat beside the door. CLEAR VAGUE

2. Firefighters cleaned their trucks after the parade. CLEAR VAGUE

3. Owen thanked Marcus because he found the missing map. CLEAR VAGUE

4. The kitten chased her toy across the rug. CLEAR VAGUE

5. Leah met Grace after her bus arrived at the library. CLEAR VAGUE

6. Diego handed Amir his calculator. CLEAR VAGUE

7. Sailors raised their flag before sunset. CLEAR VAGUE

8. Ms. Park called Mrs. Reed after her name appeared on the list. CLEAR VAGUE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a clear pronoun reference and one new sentence with a vague pronoun reference.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one VAGUE sentence from Part 1 to make the meaning clear.

ANSWER KEY

Pronoun Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.45

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Darius hung his coat beside the door.	**CLEAR**	His can only refer to Darius.
2	Firefighters cleaned their trucks after the parade.	**CLEAR**	Their refers to the firefighters.
3	Owen thanked Marcus because he found the missing map.	**VAGUE**	He could refer to Owen or Marcus.
4	The kitten chased her toy across the rug.	**CLEAR**	Her refers to the kitten.
5	Leah met Grace after her bus arrived at the library.	**VAGUE**	Her could refer to Leah or Grace.
6	Diego handed Amir his calculator.	**VAGUE**	His could refer to Diego or Amir.
7	Sailors raised their flag before sunset.	**CLEAR**	Their refers to the sailors.
8	Ms. Park called Mrs. Reed after her name appeared on the list.	**VAGUE**	Her could refer to Ms. Park or Mrs. Reed.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR**: The astronaut adjusted her helmet.
- **VAGUE**: Eli waved to Noah when he entered the gym.

Challenge: After Marcus found the missing map, Owen thanked him.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.