Whole Thought Hunt

Sort sentences from groups of words that do not stand alone.

4.L.GC.2.a "Apply understandings of sentence structure to comprehend a wide variety of grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE	FRAGMENT
A complete sentence has a subject and a predicate. It shares a whole thought and can stand alone. Lena sketches portraits.	A fragment is missing a subject, a predicate, or a whole thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. Beyond misty cliffs.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT for each item, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain what you noticed about the words.

1.	The tiny turtle crossed the road.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
2.	Mia packed her lunch before school.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
3.	Under the tall oak tree.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
4.	Our class planted sunflower seeds.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
5.	When the bell rang.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
6.	Running quickly toward the bus.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
7.	The librarian found the missing book.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
8.	The drummer practiced after dinner.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT

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 complete sentence and one new fragment.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Turn the fragment you wrote into a complete sentence. Put brackets around the subject and parentheses around the predicate.

ANSWER KEY

Whole Thought Hunt

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The tiny turtle crossed the road.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, turtle, and a predicate, crossed the road, and it shares a whole thought.
2	Mia packed her lunch before school.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, Mia, and a predicate, packed her lunch before school.
3	Under the tall oak tree.	**FRAGMENT**	This is a prepositional phrase, not a whole thought.
4	Our class planted sunflower seeds.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, class, and a predicate, planted sunflower seeds.
5	When the bell rang.	**FRAGMENT**	It tells when something happened but does not tell what happened next.
6	Running quickly toward the bus.	**FRAGMENT**	It does not name who is running or share a complete thought.
7	The librarian found the missing book.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, librarian, and a predicate, found the missing book.
8	The drummer practiced after dinner.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, drummer, and a predicate, practiced after dinner.

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)

- **COMPLETE**: A comet flashed across the night sky.
- **FRAGMENT**: Near a bubbling brook.

Challenge: [A fox] (rested near a bubbling brook).

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Complete sentences are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8. Fragments are 3, 5, and 6; accept Part 2 explanations that correctly identify a whole thought, a subject, or a predicate.