Detail Detectives

Spot details that make a sentence more exact.

4.L.GC.2.d "Elaborate on ideas and information, using adjectives and adverbs when incorporating details and descriptions to convey precise meaning and engage audiences. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRECISE DETAIL

It uses adjectives or adverbs to tell more exactly what something is like or how an action happens.

The golden kite floated gracefully above the field.

PLAIN DETAIL

It gives the basic idea but does not use adjectives or adverbs to make the meaning more exact.

A kite floated.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PRECISE or PLAIN for each sentence, then choose two sentences and explain which words helped you decide.

1. The tiny turtle crawled slowly across the warm sand. PRECISE PLAIN

2. A cheerful crowd clapped loudly at the parade. PRECISE PLAIN

3. The bird sat on a branch. PRECISE PLAIN

4. The icy wind whipped sharply through the narrow canyon. PRECISE PLAIN

5. Mia carefully packed her fragile glass model. PRECISE PLAIN

6. The dog ran in the yard. PRECISE PLAIN

7. We ate soup for dinner. PRECISE PLAIN

8. A curious fox quietly sniffed the fallen leaves. PRECISE PLAIN

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 PRECISE sentence and one new PLAIN sentence.

PRECISE _____

PLAIN _____

CHALLENGE

Write a PLAIN sentence, then rewrite it with at least one adjective and one adverb.

ANSWER KEY # Detail Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.2.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The tiny turtle crawled slowly across the warm sand.	**PRECISE**	Tiny and warm are adjectives, and slowly is an adverb.
2	A cheerful crowd clapped loudly at the parade.	**PRECISE**	Cheerful is an adjective, and loudly is an adverb.
3	The bird sat on a branch.	**PLAIN**	The sentence gives a basic action without adjectives or adverbs.
4	The icy wind whipped sharply through the narrow canyon.	**PRECISE**	Icy and narrow are adjectives, and sharply is an adverb.
5	Mia carefully packed her fragile glass model.	**PRECISE**	Carefully is an adverb, and fragile is an adjective.
6	The dog ran in the yard.	**PLAIN**	The sentence gives a basic action without adjectives or adverbs.
7	We ate soup for dinner.	**PLAIN**	The sentence gives a basic action without adjectives or adverbs.
8	A curious fox quietly sniffed the fallen leaves.	**PRECISE**	Curious and fallen are adjectives, and quietly is an adverb.

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)

- **PRECISE**: The bright lantern glowed softly near the tent.
- **PLAIN**: A plant grew.

Challenge: A child read. The patient child read quietly in the library.

For Part 2, students should name the adjectives or adverbs in each PRECISE choice, or explain that a PLAIN choice has no adjectives or adverbs. Accept original Part 3 sentences when they correctly fit the category.