Garden Speaks

Notice how comparison words make details vivid.

4.T.SS.2.b "Use figurative language for intentional effects when expressing ideas or conveying information. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that compares something or gives a nonhuman thing a human action. Write S beside a simile, M beside a metaphor, or P beside personification to show how the words create a clear picture.

Morning in the Garden

1. On Tuesday morning, our class stepped into the school garden after a light rain. Drops clung to the bean leaves like tiny glass beads. The soil smelled dark and rich, and worms curled beneath the mulch. Along the fence, sunflowers stood taller than our heads, their yellow faces turned toward the bright sky above us.

2. Near the path, a pumpkin vine was a green river flowing over the ground. It carried broad leaves, curly tendrils, and three round pumpkins. Bees buzzed from flower to flower, gathering nectar and moving pollen. Their busy flight helped the pumpkin plants make fruit, so the garden hummed with work all through our warm morning class.

3. Before we left, we filled a watering can and gave each small seedling a drink. The thirsty plants seemed to whisper, "Thank you," as water soaked into the ground. We pulled weeds that crowded the carrots and checked the tomato stems. By noon, the garden was an open book, showing us how plants grow when people care for them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the simile “like tiny glass beads” help you picture the raindrops?

2. Which metaphor compares the pumpkin vine to a river? What does this comparison suggest?

3. Find one phrase that gives plants a human action. What effect does this phrase have?

4. Why does the writer call the garden “an open book”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a place where plants or animals live. Use one simile and one example of personification, then explain how one of your phrases helps the reader picture or feel something.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Speaks

GRADE 4 · 4.T.SS.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that compares something or gives a nonhuman thing a human action. Write S beside a simile, M beside a metaphor, or P beside personification to show how the words create a clear picture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the simile "like tiny glass beads" help you picture the raindrops?	**It makes the drops seem small, shiny, and round.**
2	Which metaphor compares the pumpkin vine to a river? What does this comparison suggest?	**"A pumpkin vine was a green river flowing over the ground." It suggests that the vine spreads or flows across the ground.**
3	Find one phrase that gives plants a human action. What effect does this phrase have?	**"The thirsty plants seemed to whisper, 'Thank you.'" It makes the plants seem alive and shows that they need water.**
4	Why does the writer call the garden "an open book"?	**The phrase shows that the garden teaches or shows how plants grow when people care for them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the pond, reeds swayed like dancers in the breeze. The water winked at the sun, and frogs called from the muddy edge. A dragonfly was a tiny blue helicopter above the lilies. The words "water winked" make the pond seem lively and bright.

Accept correctly identified figurative language and reasonable explanations of its effect, as long as they connect to details in the passage. For the writing task, accept varied topics if the response has four sentences, a simile, personification, and an explanation of effect.