Words Paint Night

See how precise language builds a clear, memorable scene.

4.T.SS.2 "Craft: Use language to interpret meaning and craft engaging texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that help you see, hear, or feel the backyard. Circle each comparison that uses like or as.

Lights in the Backyard

1. After dinner, Maya carried a glass jar to the backyard. The sun slipped behind the rooftops, and the grass cooled beneath her bare feet. At first, the yard looked plain and gray. Then one tiny light blinked near the fence. Another answered from the tomato plants. Soon, fireflies floated over the lawn like sparks from a quiet campfire.

2. Maya held still, afraid that a quick step would scatter the lights. A firefly landed on a leaf beside her thumb. Its small body glowed, then dimmed, as if it were breathing gold. Maya did not rush to catch it. She watched the leaf tremble in the warm breeze and listened to crickets stitch their songs through the dark.

3. At last, Maya opened the jar she had brought, though it was empty. "This is better," she whispered. She placed the jar on the porch rail and let the fireflies keep their sky. Above her, the first stars appeared. Below them, the blinking lights made the backyard seem like a secret map, full of paths that only night could show.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase “the sun slipped behind the rooftops” mean?

2. Which comparison tells what the fireflies look like over the lawn?

3. What picture does “crickets stitch their songs through the dark” create?

4. How does calling the backyard “a secret map” affect the scene?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an ordinary place at night. Include one comparison using like or as and one action that makes a nonliving thing seem alive.

ANSWER KEY

Words Paint Night

GRADE 4 · 4.T.SS.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that help you see, hear, or feel the backyard. Circle each comparison that uses like or as. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase "the sun slipped behind the rooftops" mean?	**The sun was setting behind the buildings.**
2	Which comparison tells what the fireflies look like over the lawn?	**"like sparks from a quiet campfire"**
3	What picture does "crickets stitch their songs through the dark" create?	**It suggests that cricket sounds fill the dark night and seem to connect it like stitches.**
4	How does calling the backyard "a secret map" affect the scene?	**It makes the blinking lights seem like mysterious paths or marks that Maya can explore.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At night, rain tapped the windows of the bus stop. Puddles held the streetlights like small, shaky mirrors. A cold wind tugged at my hood while tires hissed along the wet road.

Accept equivalent explanations of the passage's word choices and their effects. For the writing task, accept any three-sentence night scene with a clear comparison and personification that adds a sensory picture.