Sounds of Morning

Notice how poetic details build a place and mood.

4.T.T.4 "Poetic Techniques: Explain, analyze, and use poetic techniques to shape understandings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that help you see or hear the harbor, circle each comparison, box each group of repeated words or sounds, and put a star by something that acts like a person.

Harbor Wakes

1 Before sunrise, the harbor holds its breath. Gray water taps the wooden docks, tap, tap, tap. A gull calls above the boats, and its cry cuts through the cool air. The lighthouse blinks one bright eye. On the shore, a boy pulls his jacket close and watches the sky turn peach behind the dark hills.

2 Then the sun rises, slow as a turtle climbing a sandy bank. Gold spills across the waves, and each small wave carries a shining piece of morning. The boats wake with clinking ropes and squeaking boards. Wake, little harbor, wake, the wind seems to whisper. Soon, blue water flashes between the red buoys and the silver fish nets.

3 By noon, the harbor is busy, but the morning stays in the boy's mind. He remembers the tapping water, the gull's sharp call, and the lighthouse eye. These details make the place feel alive, not empty. As he walks home, he hears a bucket clang on a deck. Clang, clang, clang, the sound follows him like tiny bells.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The poet says the harbor "holds its breath." What human action is given to the harbor, and how does it shape the mood?

2. How do the repeated sounds "tap, tap, tap" and "Clang, clang, clang" affect the poem?

3. What does the comparison "slow as a turtle climbing a sandy bank" show about the sunrise?

4. How do the color words in paragraph 2, such as gold, blue, red, and silver, shape your picture of the harbor?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-line poem about a place at a time of day. Use one comparison, one thing acting like a person, and one repeated sound word. Then add one sentence explaining how one technique shapes the feeling of your poem.

ANSWER KEY

Sounds of Morning

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that help you see or hear the harbor, circle each comparison, box each group of repeated words or sounds, and put a star by something that acts like a person. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The poet says the harbor "holds its breath." What human action is given to the harbor, and how does it shape the mood?	**The harbor is given the human action of holding its breath. It makes the harbor seem still and quiet before sunrise.**
2	How do the repeated sounds "tap, tap, tap" and "Clang, clang, clang" affect the poem?	**They create a beat and help the reader hear the sounds at the harbor.**
3	What does the comparison "slow as a turtle climbing a sandy bank" show about the sunrise?	**It shows that the sun rises slowly.**
4	How do the color words in paragraph 2, such as gold, blue, red, and silver, shape your picture of the harbor?	**They help the reader picture a bright, colorful harbor in the morning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The playground yawns in the pale dawn light. A swing drifts as slowly as a sleepy cloud. Creak, creak, creak, the chains sing softly. Dew shines on the slides and rails. The repeated "creak" makes the playground feel quiet and as if it is waking up.

Accept reasonable explanations that connect a technique to a picture, sound, feeling, or mood supported by the poem. For the open task, accept varied topics if the response has four poem lines, a comparison, personification, repeated sound, and one sentence explaining an effect.