Detail Detective Sort

Spot sentences that add vivid details.

5.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 _____

DETAILED

This sentence uses adjectives or adverbs to add clear details. Adjectives describe nouns, and adverbs describe actions or other words.

Cheerful musicians played loudly at sunset.

PLAIN

This sentence does not use adjectives or adverbs to add details. It tells a basic idea with less description.

Snow fell.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle DETAILED or PLAIN for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which adjectives or adverbs, or lack of them, helped you decide.

1. A rabbit hopped slowly through tall grass. DETAILED PLAIN

2. Bells rang. DETAILED PLAIN

3. Children laughed. DETAILED PLAIN

4. A curious fox quietly watched a stream. DETAILED PLAIN

5. Boats moved. DETAILED PLAIN

6. A bright kite soared high above a field. DETAILED PLAIN

7. Tired hikers carefully crossed a narrow bridge. DETAILED PLAIN

8. An enormous whale suddenly splashed beside a rocky shore. DETAILED 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 DETAILED sentence with an adjective or adverb and one new PLAIN sentence without either kind of describing word.

DETAILED _____

PLAIN _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this plain sentence by adding at least one adjective and one adverb: Dogs ran.

ANSWER KEY # Detail Detective Sort

GRADE 5 · 5.L.GC.2.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A rabbit hopped slowly through tall grass.	**DETAILED**	"Slowly" is an adverb, and "tall" is an adjective.
2	Bells rang.	**PLAIN**	It has no adjectives or adverbs.
3	Children laughed.	**PLAIN**	It has no adjectives or adverbs.
4	A curious fox quietly watched a stream.	**DETAILED**	"Curious" is an adjective, and "quietly" is an adverb.
5	Boats moved.	**PLAIN**	It has no adjectives or adverbs.
6	A bright kite soared high above a field.	**DETAILED**	"Bright" is an adjective, and "high" is an adverb.
7	Tired hikers carefully crossed a narrow bridge.	**DETAILED**	"Tired" and "narrow" are adjectives, and "carefully" is an adverb.
8	An enormous whale suddenly splashed beside a rocky shore.	**DETAILED**	"Enormous" and "rocky" are adjectives, and "suddenly" 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)

- **DETAILED**: A playful puppy eagerly chased a red ball.
- **PLAIN**: Clouds drift.

Challenge: The energetic dogs happily ran across the muddy yard.

Items 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are DETAILED. Items 2, 3, and 5 are PLAIN. For the proof responses, students should name modifiers in detailed sentences or explain that plain sentences have no adjectives or adverbs.