Words That Work

Choose words that show exact actions and details.

5.L.V.3.e "Use knowledge of word relationships and learned vocabulary words and phrases to make precise word choices when speaking and writing. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six action words that make the garden scene clear. In the margin, number three words that show an exact action instead of a general action such as went or did.

After the Rain

1. On Saturday, the school garden woke slowly after a night of rain. Drops clung to the bean leaves, and a thin stream threaded between the raised beds. Maya crouched beside the tomato plants and brushed wet soil from a label. Near the fence, a snail glided across a flat stone, leaving a shining trail behind it.

2. Soon, a breeze tugged at the paper signs that named each plant. One sign flapped against its stake, while another tilted and tapped the wooden edge of a bed. Maya's brother hurried over, steadied the loose stake, and pressed it deeper into the ground. The signs stopped rattling, but the basil leaves still trembled in the wind.

3. When the rain clouds split apart, sunlight spilled across the garden. The wet stones gleamed, and the puddles shrank as the morning warmed. Maya collected the labels, then sorted them into neat rows by plant type. Before leaving, she recorded the garden's changes in the class notebook so the next group could notice what happened after the storm.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is threaded a more precise word than went for the stream in paragraph 1?

2. What does glided tell you about the way the snail moved?

3. How do tugged, flapped, and rattling show different effects of the breeze in paragraph 2?

4. Why is sorted more precise than put for describing what Maya did with the labels in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence field note about an outdoor place after rain. Use at least three precise action words that help a reader picture what happened.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Work

GRADE 5 · 5.L.V.3.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six action words that make the garden scene clear. In the margin, number three words that show an exact action instead of a general action such as went or did. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is threaded a more precise word than went for the stream in paragraph 1?	**It shows that the thin stream wound its way between the raised beds.**
2	What does glided tell you about the way the snail moved?	**The snail moved smoothly across the stone.**
3	How do tugged, flapped, and rattling show different effects of the breeze in paragraph 2?	**Tugged means the breeze pulled the signs, flapped means a sign moved back and forth, and rattling means the signs made quick, hard sounds.**
4	Why is sorted more precise than put for describing what Maya did with the labels in paragraph 3?	**Sorted shows that she grouped the labels into neat rows by plant type.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the playground, rainwater dripped from the monkey bars while a crow hopped through a puddle. A gust swirled the leaves across the blacktop, and the sun warmed the slides.

Accept answers that identify exact action words and explain the meaning those words add to the scene. For the field note, accept any two sentences with at least three precise action words that fit the details described.