

Words on the Trail

Notice how figurative language fits a reader and a purpose.

5.T.SS.2.a “Describe the impact of the use of figurative language such as similes, metaphors, idioms, hyperboles, and personification in response to audience and purpose, in various modes and genres. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each figurative phrase and write S, M, I, H, or P beside it for simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, or personification. Circle words that tell who will read each piece, then use your marks to think about why the writer chose that language.

Maya’s Trail Materials

- ① At Pine Ridge Nature Center, Maya helped Ranger Ortiz prepare materials for Saturday’s trail walk. In her field journal, she wrote, “Morning fog curled around the pond like a silver scarf. The sun was a warm coin above the trees, and the water winked at me.” She planned to share the journal with her cousin, who loved drawing birds.
- ② On a small sign near the trailhead, Maya wrote directions for visiting families. “Stay on the path. The forest is a shared home, and its roots hold the soil in place. Do not feed wildlife, or you may have a million snack-seeking guests. Pack out every crumb.” Ranger Ortiz checked the sign before it was posted.
- ③ Before the walk, Maya practiced a short welcome for the younger visitors. “Keep your eyes peeled for blue jays,” she said. “A squirrel can zip up a trunk faster than a dropped acorn. Listen closely, because the woods may whisper a clue.” Her cousin copied the welcome into a program for the group and read it aloud at the start.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Copy one simile and one metaphor from the passage. Label each one.

- 2 How do the phrases “the water winked at me” and “the woods may whisper a clue” affect the way nature seems to the reader?

- 3 What does “a million snack-seeking guests” mean? Why might Maya use this hyperbole on the sign?

- 4 Compare Maya’s journal and trail sign. What is the audience and purpose of each, and how does the figurative language fit?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence trail reminder for families. Use one figurative phrase to help readers follow a safety rule, and underline the figurative phrase.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each figurative phrase and write S, M, I, H, or P beside it for simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, or personification. Circle words that tell who will read each piece, then use your marks to think about why the writer chose that language. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy one simile and one metaphor from the passage. Label each one.	Simile: "Morning fog curled around the pond like a silver scarf." Metaphor: "The sun was a warm coin above the trees."
2	How do the phrases "the water winked at me" and "the woods may whisper a clue" affect the way nature seems to the reader?	They make nature seem alive, active, and able to interact with people.
3	What does "a million snack-seeking guests" mean? Why might Maya use this hyperbole on the sign?	It means many animals might come looking for food, not literally one million. The exaggeration makes the warning memorable and supports the rule not to feed wildlife.
4	Compare Maya's journal and trail sign. What is the audience and purpose of each, and how does the figurative language fit?	The journal is for Maya's cousin and shares her nature observations with vivid images. The sign is for visiting families and gives trail directions and wildlife rules with memorable language.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Keep food in your pack, because crumbs can bring animals closer to people. <u>The trail is a hallway through the animals' home</u>, so walk quietly and stay on it.

Accept correctly identified figurative language and reasonable explanations of its effect when supported by the passage. For the writing task, accept any two-sentence reminder for families that includes an underlined figurative phrase connected to a safety rule.