Wings With Meaning

Notice how comparisons make migration facts vivid.

5.T.SS.2.b "Use figurative language for intentional effects when expressing ideas or conveying information. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that compares one thing to another. In the margin, write one or two words about the picture each comparison creates.

The Monarch Journey

1. Each autumn, millions of monarch butterflies leave parts of the United States and Canada for mountain forests in central Mexico. Unlike most butterflies, this generation can live for many months. The travelers follow sunlight and air currents, crossing fields, towns, and rivers. Their orange wings flash like tiny signal flags as they search for nectar and sheltered places to rest.

2. In Mexico, the monarchs cluster on oyamel fir trees, where cool temperatures help them save energy. A branch may hold so many butterflies that it seems to wear an orange blanket. When the sun warms the forest, groups lift into the air above them. The quiet trees suddenly become busy streets, filled with fluttering travelers.

3. In spring, monarchs leave Mexico and fly north. They lay eggs on milkweed plants along the way, and the caterpillars that hatch later form chrysalises and emerge as new butterflies. No single butterfly completes the whole return trip. Instead, several generations carry the journey north, like runners passing a baton from one team member to the next in a relay.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the comparison of the monarchs' wings to tiny signal flags suggest about the wings?

2. What picture does the orange blanket comparison create?

3. What picture does the comparison to busy streets create?

4. How does the relay comparison help explain the monarchs' northward journey?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain how an animal travels, feeds, or survives. Include two different comparisons that help the reader picture the information, and make sure your facts are accurate.

ANSWER KEY

Wings With Meaning

GRADE 5 · 5.T.SS.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that compares one thing to another. In the margin, write one or two words about the picture each comparison creates. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the comparison of the monarchs' wings to tiny signal flags suggest about the wings?	**It suggests that the bright orange wings are easy to notice as they flash.**
2	What picture does the orange blanket comparison create?	**It creates a picture of a branch covered thickly with many orange butterflies.**
3	What picture does the comparison to busy streets create?	**It makes the forest seem crowded, active, and full of moving butterflies.**
4	How does the relay comparison help explain the monarchs' northward journey?	**It shows that several generations continue the trip, so no one butterfly flies the entire route.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Humpback whales migrate between cold feeding waters and warmer breeding waters. A humpback's tail rises like a broad sail before a dive, and its powerful body moves through the water like a giant pendulum. These comparisons help readers imagine a whale traveling through the ocean.

Accept quoted comparisons and reasonable explanations of the images or effects they create. For Part 3, accept accurate animal information, exactly three sentences, and two clear comparisons.