Words That Move

Notice how word choices build a scene.

5.T.SS.2 "Craft: Use language to interpret meaning and craft engaging texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three vivid action words, circle the two comparisons that use like, and put a star beside one phrase that gives nature a human action. These choices help create a clear, exciting picture.

Moonlit Hatchlings

1. At dusk, the beach looked empty, but the sand held a secret. Beneath a small mound, dozens of loggerhead turtle eggs began to crack. One hatchling pushed through the loose grains and lifted its round head. The moon painted a silver path across the water, and the tiny turtle turned toward that shining road without stopping.

2. More hatchlings wriggled free, flippers sweeping like little paddles. They did not know the beach was dangerous, yet their bodies followed the brightest horizon. A ghost crab skittered nearby, then vanished into a hole. The hatchlings hurried over ridges of sand, leaving thin tracks that curled behind them like lines drawn by a shaking pencil.

3. At the edge of the surf, a wave rushed forward and wrapped the first turtle in foam. For a moment, the hatchling disappeared. Then it bobbed up, paddling hard, while another wave carried it farther from shore. Soon, the dark water swallowed the small travelers, but their journey had only begun. Years later, some may return to this same beach.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase “the sand held a secret” mean in the first paragraph?

2. Which comparison helps you picture the hatchlings’ flippers? Explain what it helps you imagine.

3. How do the words “rushed,” “wrapped,” and “carried” make the wave seem?

4. The water did not really swallow the turtles. What does “the dark water swallowed the small travelers” mean?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about an animal other than a sea turtle moving through a place. Use at least two vivid action words, one comparison using like or as, and one phrase that gives an object or part of nature a human action.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 5 · 5.T.SS.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three vivid action words, circle the two comparisons that use like, and put a star beside one phrase that gives nature a human action. These choices help create a clear, exciting picture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase “the sand held a secret” mean in the first paragraph?	**The turtle eggs were hidden beneath the sand.**
2	Which comparison helps you picture the hatchlings’ flippers? Explain what it helps you imagine.	**“Flippers sweeping like little paddles” helps the reader imagine the small flippers moving back and forth.**
3	How do the words “rushed,” “wrapped,” and “carried” make the wave seem?	**They make the wave seem fast, strong, and powerful.**
4	The water did not really swallow the turtles. What does “the dark water swallowed the small travelers” mean?	**It means the turtles disappeared into the large, dark ocean.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A red fox slipped through the snowy field, its paws tapping softly over the crust. The wind tugged at its fur like a playful puppy, and the pine trees whispered above it. When the fox heard a mouse beneath the snow, it pounced and vanished into the white grass.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect the selected language to its meaning or effect. For the writing task, check for exactly three sentences, an animal in motion, two vivid action words, a comparison, and personification.