Modifier Detective

Sort details that sharpen a reader's picture.

6.L.GC.2.d "Build and enrich ideas and information in texts, using modifiers when incorporating details and descriptions to convey meaning and facilitate engagement. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPECIFIC MODIFIERS

Specific modifiers give exact or clear details. They help the reader picture what is being described.

Five striped fish darting through coral tunnels.

VAGUE MODIFIERS

Vague modifiers give a general detail that can mean different things to different readers. They do not create a clear picture.

Amazing place nearby.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SPECIFIC or VAGUE for each item, and for Part 2, choose two items and explain which details make each modifier specific or vague.

1. Three muddy boots stood by the door. SPECIFIC VAGUE

2. A silver bicycle leaned against the fence. SPECIFIC VAGUE

3. The good movie ended late. SPECIFIC VAGUE

4. We watched a spotted owl. SPECIFIC VAGUE

5. The big box fell. SPECIFIC VAGUE

6. She chose a nice dress. SPECIFIC VAGUE

7. Two 12-pound pumpkins filled the wagon. SPECIFIC VAGUE

8. They saw many stars. SPECIFIC VAGUE

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

Part 3: Write one new sentence with a SPECIFIC modifier and one new sentence with a VAGUE modifier.

SPECIFIC _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite the sentence with two specific modifiers: The pretty garden attracted bees.

ANSWER KEY

Modifier Detective

GRADE 6 · 6.L.GC.2.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Three muddy boots stood by the door.	**SPECIFIC**	The number and muddy detail help the reader picture the boots.
2	A silver bicycle leaned against the fence.	**SPECIFIC**	Silver gives a clear detail about the bicycle.
3	The good movie ended late.	**VAGUE**	Good is an opinion and does not tell what made the movie good.
4	We watched a spotted owl.	**SPECIFIC**	Spotted gives a clear visual detail about the owl.
5	The big box fell.	**VAGUE**	Big does not tell the box's size or measurements.
6	She chose a nice dress.	**VAGUE**	Nice is a general opinion and does not describe the dress.
7	Two 12-pound pumpkins filled the wagon.	**SPECIFIC**	The number and weight give exact details.
8	They saw many stars.	**VAGUE**	Many does not tell how many stars they saw.

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)

- **SPECIFIC**: Four red kites floated above the beach.
- **VAGUE**: We ate a delicious snack.

Challenge: The 10-foot, herb-filled garden attracted bees.

Accept other answers when the student accurately explains whether the modifier gives a clear, precise detail or only a general idea. For the challenge, students may use different specific modifiers if both sharpen the picture of the garden.