Silent Flight Choices

Notice how word choices sharpen a science description.

6.L.V.2.d "Use knowledge of parts of speech to determine precise words and phrases when constructing texts. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three action verbs, circle three adjectives, and put a box around two adverbs. Choose words that make the owl's actions or setting more exact.

The Barn Owl's Hunt

1. At dusk, a barn owl leaves its roost and glides over a grassy field. Its broad, pale wings beat slowly, then hold still as the bird listens. The owl's uneven ears help it notice tiny sounds from different directions. Beneath the grass, a vole rustles through dry stems. The owl tilts its round head, aims toward the faint noise, and drops with its talons stretched forward. In a few silent seconds, the hunt is over below.

2. Barn owls do not rely on sharp eyesight alone. A soft fringe along each flight feather breaks up the air as the wings move. This feature helps the owl fly quietly, so a nearby vole may not hear danger. The bird's broad wings also let it drift slowly above the ground for long stretches. When the owl reaches its target, curved talons grip the animal firmly. It carries its meal back to a sheltered perch.

3. People can support barn owls by protecting the open places where they hunt. Farmers sometimes place nest boxes near fields, giving owls a safer spot to raise young. A box must be built carefully and placed where people will not disturb the birds. Protecting grasslands matters too, because voles and other small animals need cover and food there. When an owl swoops across a moonlit field, its quiet flight shows how several body features work together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, which verb gives an exact picture of how the owl moves over the field?

2. In paragraph 1, which adjective describes the noise that guides the owl?

3. In paragraph 2, which adverb tells how the owl's talons grip the animal?

4. In paragraph 3, find the two-word noun phrase that names a place lit by moonlight.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal doing something. Use at least one precise action verb, two adjectives, and one adverb. Underline each action verb, circle the adjectives, and put a box around the adverb.

ANSWER KEY

Silent Flight Choices

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.2.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three action verbs, circle three adjectives, and put a box around two adverbs. Choose words that make the owl's actions or setting more exact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which verb gives an exact picture of how the owl moves over the field?	**glides**
2	In paragraph 1, which adjective describes the noise that guides the owl?	**faint**
3	In paragraph 2, which adverb tells how the owl's talons grip the animal?	**firmly**
4	In paragraph 3, find the two-word noun phrase that names a place lit by moonlight.	**moonlit field**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The (sleek) (brown) otter [swiftly] _slipped_ through the reeds. It _cracked_ a mussel against a (flat) rock.

For the marking job, accept any three action verbs, three adjectives, and two adverbs from the passage that fit the directions. For Part 3, accept two complete sentences with accurate markings and specific word choices that clearly describe an animal's action.