Secrets of the Tide

Notice how a poet uses language to bring a setting to life.

6.T.T.4 "Poetic Techniques: Analyze and apply poetic techniques."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline similes and personification, circle repeated words or sounds, and number three sensory details. These techniques help create a vivid, active picture of the tide pool.

Tide Pool Poem

1 At low tide, the beach opens a hidden room. Black rocks shine like wet seals, and small pools hold pieces of sky. A crab sidesteps beneath a curtain of green seaweed. The waves whisper from beyond the sandbar, calling, "Come back, come back." I kneel near a pool and watch an anemone fold its soft arms around the water. Salt air stings my nose, while gulls cry above the bright, broken shells at my feet.

2 Inside the largest pool, purple sea stars cling to stone with hundreds of tiny tube feet. A hermit crab drags a borrowed shell across the bottom, scratch, scrape, scratch. The tide pool keeps its secrets under a glassy lid, but sunlight slips through. Blue mussels cluster close together, dark as midnight buttons. I listen to the scratch, scrape, scratch, and the water answers with a soft splash. In this small world, every creature seems busy, busy, busy.

3 Then the ocean begins to return. First, a thin ribbon of water curls between the rocks. Then another ribbon follows, silver and quick. The waves tap the shore, tap the shore, tap the shore, until the pools tremble. "Time to go," the waves seem to say. I step back as foam races over the sand like a line of white lace. The hidden room closes, yet its watery voices follow me up the beach at sunset.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two things are compared in the simile “Black rocks shine like wet seals”? What picture does this comparison create?

2. What object is personified in the sentence “The tide pool keeps its secrets under a glassy lid”? Which human action is it given?

3. How does the repeated phrase “scratch, scrape, scratch” help you imagine the hermit crab’s movement?

4. Copy one visual image and one sound image from the poem.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-line poem about an outdoor place or weather. Include one simile, one example of personification, and a repeated word or phrase.

ANSWER KEY # Secrets of the Tide

GRADE 6 · 6.T.T.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline similes and personification, circle repeated words or sounds, and number three sensory details. These techniques help create a vivid, active picture of the tide pool. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two things are compared in the simile "Black rocks shine like wet seals"? What picture does this comparison create?	**The rocks are compared to wet seals. The comparison makes the rocks seem dark, shiny, and rounded.**
2	What object is personified in the sentence "The tide pool keeps its secrets under a glassy lid"? Which human action is it given?	**The tide pool is personified. It is given the human action of keeping secrets.**
3	How does the repeated phrase "scratch, scrape, scratch" help you imagine the hermit crab's movement?	**It makes the crab's slow, rough movement sound rhythmic and easy to hear.**
4	Copy one visual image and one sound image from the poem.	**Possible visual image: "bright, broken shells." Possible sound image: "gulls cry."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain drums on the roof, drum, drum, drum. The garden lifts its thirsty face. Puddles shine like small silver mirrors. A cool wind brushes my cheeks.

Accept other accurate examples of sensory imagery from the passage. For the poem, accept varied topics if the student includes a clear simile, personification, and repetition in four lines.