# Words With Attitude

Use figurative language and connotation to track a speaker's viewpoint.

**7.L.V.3.a** "This progression transitions to 6-8.L.V.3.b."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each figurative phrase in the passage. Circle one word or phrase near each one that reveals the speaker's attitude toward the garden.

### The Cedar Street Garden

1 On Monday, the empty lot beside the library looked ordinary: cracked pavement, weeds, and a bent fence. By Saturday, volunteers had transformed it into the Cedar Street Garden. Rows of lettuce stood in neat beds, and marigolds flashed beside the gate. Ms. Alvarez, who organized the project, called the garden "a small green promise." Her phrase did not mean that plants could make promises. People lingered near the sign, discussing what might grow there.

2 Not everyone welcomed the change. Mr. Bell, who lived across the street, worried that the garden would attract noise and litter. He described the new plan as "a magnet for trouble." During the first week, he watched from his porch as children carried watering cans along the path. Yet the garden stayed quiet. Neighbors took turns sweeping the walkway, and a local café donated a rain barrel. Mr. Bell's harsh description showed his fear before he had seen how the space would be cared for.

3 By autumn, vines curled over a wooden arch, and the lot no longer seemed forgotten. At a community meeting, Mr. Bell said the garden had "changed the street's heartbeat." He was not speaking about a real heart beneath the pavement. He meant that the block felt more active and alive. His new image contrasted sharply with his earlier complaint. The speakers' different phrases show how figurative language can reveal changing attitudes toward the same place.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Ms. Alvarez suggest by calling the garden "a small green promise"?

2. Why is "a magnet for trouble" figurative, and what does Mr. Bell mean by it?

3. What attitudes are suggested by the words "transformed" and "forgotten"?

4. How does Mr. Bell's "street's heartbeat" compare with his earlier phrase, "a magnet for trouble"?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a familiar place that has changed. Include one figurative phrase and at least one word that clearly reveals your attitude toward the change.

ANSWER KEY

# Words With Attitude

GRADE 7 · 7.L.V.3.a

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each figurative phrase in the passage. Circle one word or phrase near each one that reveals the speaker's attitude toward the garden. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does Ms. Alvarez suggest by calling the garden "a small green promise"? | **She suggests that the garden offers hope for a better, healthier neighborhood.** |
| 2 | Why is "a magnet for trouble" figurative, and what does Mr. Bell mean by it? | **The garden is not a real magnet. Mr. Bell means that he expects it to attract problems such as noise and litter.** |
| 3 | What attitudes are suggested by the words "transformed" and "forgotten"? | **"Transformed" suggests a positive change, while "forgotten" suggests that the lot had been neglected or ignored.** |
| 4 | How does Mr. Bell's "street's heartbeat" compare with his earlier phrase, "a magnet for trouble"? | **His earlier phrase shows fear and disapproval. "Street's heartbeat" shows that he now sees the garden as bringing positive life and activity to the block.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The park was a tired old shoe before the cleanup. Now its bright benches and clean paths make it feel welcoming. Calling it a tired old shoe shows that it once seemed worn out and ignored.

Accept reasonable explanations of the figurative phrases that match the passage context. For Part 3, accept any three-sentence response with a clear figurative phrase and a word or phrase that conveys an attitude.