

Whispers on the Ridge

Analyze style and theme in a Romantic lyric.

7.T.PM.1.b "Read and comprehend to analyze one genre of literature from a particular time period and identify key features of style and theme. (1)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that create vivid nature imagery. Circle two places where nature is given a human action, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show the speaker's changing feelings.

The Hill at Dusk

- ① At sunset, I climbed the ridge above our village, carrying the day's sharp worries like stones in my coat. Below, the river caught the last light and folded it into silver ribbons. Pines leaned together along the path, whispering secrets too old for any map. I had come to escape the crowded market and its noisy arguments, yet the open sky seemed to ask me to listen. A cool wind touched my face, and my hurried thoughts began to loosen.
- ② On the highest rock, I watched a hawk circle once, then vanish into a cloud stained rose and gold. The sight did not solve my problems, but it made them appear smaller beside the wide, patient land. For a moment, the hill was not scenery. It was a teacher without a voice, showing me that each troubled hour could pass, just as shadows crossed the grass and moved on. I breathed slowly and stood still.
- ③ When darkness covered the valley, windows flickered far below like a scattered necklace of fire. I remembered the people in those homes, each carrying hopes and fears that I could not see. The moon rose over the ridge, calm and watchful, and the river answered with a bright path. Walking down, I still had choices to make, but I no longer felt trapped inside them. The living world had widened my mind and returned me to myself.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 This passage is a Romantic lyric, a genre connected to the Romantic period. Name two style features that fit this genre, and give one example of each from the passage.

- 2 How does the speaker's mood change from the first paragraph to the last paragraph? Use details from both paragraphs.

- 3 What does the phrase "a teacher without a voice" suggest about the hill? Explain what the speaker learns from it.

- 4 Write a one-sentence theme statement for the passage, then support it with two details from the text.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence prose lyric about an outdoor place that changes someone's mood. Use a first-person speaker, at least two sensory images, and one example of personification to show a theme about nature.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that create vivid nature imagery. Circle two places where nature is given a human action, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show the speaker's changing feelings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	This passage is a Romantic lyric, a genre connected to the Romantic period. Name two style features that fit this genre, and give one example of each from the passage.	Vivid nature imagery, such as the river folding light into "silver ribbons," and personification, such as the pines "whispering secrets."
2	How does the speaker's mood change from the first paragraph to the last paragraph? Use details from both paragraphs.	The speaker begins worried and hurried, but ends feeling calmer and less trapped after spending time in nature.
3	What does the phrase "a teacher without a voice" suggest about the hill? Explain what the speaker learns from it.	The phrase personifies the hill. The speaker learns that troubles can pass and seem smaller when viewed beside the lasting natural world.
4	Write a one-sentence theme statement for the passage, then support it with two details from the text.	Nature can give a worried person perspective and calm, shown when the speaker's problems appear smaller and the speaker no longer feels trapped.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After school, I sat beside the rain-dark pond and watched circles tremble across its green surface. The wet grass cooled my hands, while the smell of earth rose around me. A willow dragged its fingers through the water, as if it were smoothing away my anger. By the time I left, the pond had taught me that a quiet place can make a heavy day feel lighter.

Accept other answers that identify Romantic-style features such as emotion, individual reflection, vivid nature imagery, or personification, as long as students support them with passage details. For the writing task, check for four sentences, first-person voice, sensory imagery, personification, and a clear nature-related theme.