Words That Move

Study how a cleanup invitation uses language choices to influence readers.

7.T.SS.2.b "Use figurative language, literary devices, or connotative language for intentional effects when creating texts to achieve specific purposes or appeal to the target audience. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three phrases that create a strong picture or feeling, and circle two words with strong connotations. Number your underlined phrases 1, 2, and 3, then write a brief note in the margin about what each choice may help readers think, feel, or do.

Creek Cleanup Invitation

1. Saturday morning, the creek behind Maple Park will trade its coat of wrappers and bottles for clear, moving water. Our seventh-grade service team is planning a cleanup from 9:00 to 11:00. Bring gloves, a refillable water bottle, and shoes that can handle mud. We will sort trash, record what we find, and place reusable items in recycling bins. Families are welcome, but students may attend with a signed permission slip at the check-in table near the pavilion.

2. Last spring, rain carried loose litter toward the storm drain, where it could travel into the creek. A snack bag caught on a branch can become a bright warning flag, and a line of bottle caps can look like a trail leading nowhere good. By removing debris before the next storm, volunteers can help protect water, birds, and the paths people use. The work is small in each pair of hands, yet it can change the whole shoreline.

3. Meet us by the picnic shelter at 8:45 to sign in and choose a section of the bank. The creek has carried our neighborhood's reflections for years, and now it needs more than worried looks from the bridge. Bring a friend who notices details, whether that is a hidden can tab or a heron's careful footprints. Let us give the water a cleaner path and leave the park ready for its next visitors that afternoon.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What picture does the phrase "trade its coat of wrappers and bottles" create? How does that picture support the invitation's purpose?

2. How does calling a caught snack bag a "bright warning flag" affect the tone of paragraph 2?

3. What idea does the contrast between "small in each pair of hands" and "the whole shoreline" communicate to possible volunteers?

4. How does the phrase "needs more than worried looks from the bridge" appeal to the audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3- to 4-sentence invitation asking classmates to join a different service project. Include one metaphor, simile, or example of personification and at least two connotative words that make the project sound worth joining.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 7 · 7.T.SS.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three phrases that create a strong picture or feeling, and circle two words with strong connotations. Number your underlined phrases 1, 2, and 3, then write a brief note in the margin about what each choice may help readers think, feel, or do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What picture does the phrase "trade its coat of wrappers and bottles" create? How does that picture support the invitation's purpose?	**It pictures litter covering the creek like a coat. This makes the pollution seem noticeable and supports the call to remove it.**
2	How does calling a caught snack bag a "bright warning flag" affect the tone of paragraph 2?	**It creates a cautionary tone by making the litter seem like a clear sign of a problem.**
3	What idea does the contrast between "small in each pair of hands" and "the whole shoreline" communicate to possible volunteers?	**It suggests that each person's small effort can combine with others' efforts to make a larger difference.**
4	How does the phrase "needs more than worried looks from the bridge" appeal to the audience?	**It pushes readers to act instead of only feeling concerned, making them feel responsible for helping.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Thursday, bring a gently used book to the library book drive. A forgotten story can open a door for another reader. Choose a welcoming, exciting, or thoughtful book to share. Help fill the donation shelf with adventures waiting for new hands.

Accept annotations and question responses that identify reasonable effects supported by specific words or phrases in the passage. For Part 3, accept varied service projects if the response has 3 to 4 sentences, clearly addresses classmates, includes the required figurative language, and uses at least two effective connotative words.