

Harbor Sound Shift

Track how sound and imagery shape a harbor's changing day.

8.T.T.4.a "Analyze the development of poetic techniques used to present and design content, including stanzas, rhyme scheme, imagery, figurative language, and/or cacophony."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three stanzas, circle end words that rhyme in the first stanza, underline sensory images, box figurative language, and draw a jagged line under harsh sounds so you can trace how the harbor changes.

A Harbor's Day

- ① At dawn, the harbor holds its breath in gray, A gull draws circles through the salted air. The nets lie coiled like snakes along the quay, Pink light unties the shadows everywhere. Cold boards press damp patterns into boots, Crates smell of cedar, fish, and rain. A lone bell taps, then pauses by the shore, The tide folds silver cloth against the door. Each window catches a small square of day, And waits for boats to wake the sleeping bay.
- ② By noon, the harbor is a hammering mouth. Clang, clatter, scrape, the winches bite and grind. Forklifts beep, and gulls scream overhead. Workers call across the dock, their voices loud. Rusty chains rattle, dragging on the ground. The sleepy bay has become a beating drum. Boats thump the pilings, one by one. Salt stings the hands that haul the heavy lines. Bright jackets flash along the crowded pier. Even the waves seem sharp enough to hear.
- ③ At sunset, engines soften into a low hum. The harbor releases its busy breath. Orange clouds burn above the masts and cranes. Their reflections tremble in the darkening water. A final rope knocks once against a post. Then quiet gathers, feather by feather, near. The moon lays a path of light across the bay. Boats rest like closed books until the day. A distant buoy answers, soft and slow. The tide carries the last red glow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What is the rhyme scheme of the first four lines in the first stanza? Name the two pairs of rhyming end words.

- 2 Identify two sensory images from the first stanza. What mood do these images create?

- 3 Which words or phrases in the second stanza create cacophony? Explain how these sounds match what is happening at the harbor.

- 4 How does the third stanza develop the harbor's change from the second stanza? Use one sound detail and one figurative language example in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 3-stanza poem, with 4 lines in each stanza, about a place that changes from quiet to noisy and back to quiet. Include one pair of end-rhyming words in each stanza, at least two sensory images, one simile or metaphor, and one line of cacophony. Then write 2 sentences explaining how your techniques show the change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the three stanzas, circle end words that rhyme in the first stanza, underline sensory images, box figurative language, and draw a jagged line under harsh sounds so you can trace how the harbor changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the rhyme scheme of the first four lines in the first stanza? Name the two pairs of rhyming end words.	ABAB. gray/quay and air/everywhere.
2	Identify two sensory images from the first stanza. What mood do these images create?	Examples include "salted air," "Cold boards press damp patterns into boots," and "Crates smell of cedar, fish, and rain." They create a quiet, waking mood.
3	Which words or phrases in the second stanza create cacophony? Explain how these sounds match what is happening at the harbor.	"Clang, clatter, scrape," "bite and grind," "beep," "scream," "rattle," and "thump" create harsh, crowded sounds that match the harbor's busy noon activity.
4	How does the third stanza develop the harbor's change from the second stanza? Use one sound detail and one figurative language example in your answer.	The harsh noon sounds become softer in "engines soften into a low hum" and "A distant buoy answers, soft and slow." Figurative language such as "The harbor releases its busy breath" shows that the active harbor is calming down.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Morning mist hangs low around the gate. Wet grass chills my shoes beside the wall. The playground waits, its swings asleep and late. One sparrow pecks, then lifts above it all. At noon, the courtyard is a buzzing hive. Clack, crash, shout, shoes scrape across the stone. Red balls flash, and jumping ropes arrive. The basketball court pounds a steady tone. By dusk, the empty swings begin to sway. Long shadows stretch across the cooling ground. The courtyard folds its noisy wings away. A last loose chain gives one small, silver sound. The first and third stanzas use soft images and quieter sounds to show a calm courtyard. The middle stanza uses cacophony and the metaphor "buzzing hive" to show the noisy peak of the day.

Accept different correct examples of imagery, figurative language, rhyme, and cacophony when students explain their effects using passage evidence. For the poem, check for three 4-line stanzas, required techniques, and a two-sentence explanation connecting technique choices to the place's change.