Kite in the Tree

Read a story and explore what its comparisons mean.

4.RC.13 "Determine how words and phrases provide meaning to works of literature, including figurative language (e.g., similes, metaphors, or hyperbole)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four phrases that compare or exaggerate, then number them 1 through 4 in the order you find them. Think about what each phrase helps you understand.

Nia's Kite

1. At the school fair, Nia carried a paper kite to the field. She had painted it yellow with blue dots. The wind was a playful puppy, tugging at the kite before she could let go. Nia held the string tight and asked her brother Leo to stand back. Last year, her kite had fallen before it reached the top of the fence.

2. Leo counted to three, and Nia lifted her arms. The kite rose like a bright fish swimming up through water. Its long tail shook as the wind pushed it higher. Nia let out more string. Then the kite caught on a branch near the field. Nia stared at it and said, "We will need a ladder as tall as the moon!"

3. Leo went to ask the custodian for help. While he was gone, Nia watched the kite hang still. She felt as small as a seed beside the tall tree. At last, the custodian brought a ladder and freed the kite. Nia thanked him, then waited for Leo to return. This time, they moved to a clear spot before trying again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the story call the wind "a playful puppy"?

2. What does the comparison to a swimming fish help you picture about the kite?

3. What does Nia mean when she says they need a ladder "as tall as the moon"?

4. What does "as small as a seed" tell you about how Nia feels while the kite is stuck?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about how Nia may have felt when the kite was freed. Use a new simile or metaphor in the first sentence, then explain what it shows about her feelings in the second.

ANSWER KEY

Kite in the Tree

GRADE 4 · 4.RC.13

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four phrases that compare or exaggerate, then number them 1 through 4 in the order you find them. Think about what each phrase helps you understand. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the story call the wind "a playful puppy"?	**The wind tugs at the kite in a lively way, like a playful puppy might tug.**
2	What does the comparison to a swimming fish help you picture about the kite?	**It helps the reader picture the kite rising smoothly through the air.**
3	What does Nia mean when she says they need a ladder "as tall as the moon"?	**She thinks the branch is very high and may be hard to reach. She does not mean the ladder must reach the moon.**
4	What does "as small as a seed" tell you about how Nia feels while the kite is stuck?	**Nia feels helpless beside the tall tree and its hard-to-reach branch.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the custodian freed the kite, Nia's relief was a warm blanket around her shoulders. The metaphor shows that she felt safe and comforted after worrying about her kite.

For the marking job, look for the comparisons to a playful puppy, a swimming fish, the moon, and a seed. Accept answers that explain the meaning of each phrase using details from the story.