Words in Motion

Explore how vivid words shape a story's mood.

5.W.3.d "Use precise and expressive vocabulary and figurative language for effect."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two precise action verbs and circle two comparisons in the passage. Notice how each choice helps you picture the action or understand a feeling.

The Missing Music

1. On the morning of the class concert, I carried my violin case onto the bus. Its black handle felt slick in my damp hand. As I reached my seat, the bus lurched, and my folded music slipped from my pocket. The pages fluttered down the aisle like startled moths. I froze while shoes shuffled closer, each step a small drumbeat in my ears.

2. I squeezed between two rows and spotted one page under a muddy boot. “Wait!” I called, but my voice came out thin as thread. At the next stop, the student lifted her boot, and I snatched the page by one corner. A brown streak crossed the notes, yet the last line remained clear enough to read.

3. Before we reached school, Mina had gathered every loose sheet. I spread them across an empty seat and smoothed the creases with my palm. The muddy page looked battered, but the notes were still there. At the concert, my bow found its way across the strings. The first clear note rose like a bright bird above the crowd.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does comparing the pages to “startled moths” help you picture?

2. What does “thin as thread” suggest about the narrator's voice and feelings?

3. How does the comparison in the final sentence affect the feeling of the scene?

4. Why is “snatched” a stronger choice than “picked up” when the narrator gets the page?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- to five-sentence scene about finding a missing item in an unfamiliar place. Use two precise action verbs and one comparison with like or as to show a change from worry to relief.

ANSWER KEY

Words in Motion

GRADE 5 · 5.W.3.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two precise action verbs and circle two comparisons in the passage. Notice how each choice helps you picture the action or understand a feeling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does comparing the pages to "startled moths" help you picture?	**The pages flutter suddenly and scatter down the aisle.**
2	What does "thin as thread" suggest about the narrator's voice and feelings?	**The narrator's voice sounds weak or quiet because the narrator is worried.**
3	How does the comparison in the final sentence affect the feeling of the scene?	**The note rising like a bright bird makes the concert feel hopeful and free.**
4	Why is "snatched" a stronger choice than "picked up" when the narrator gets the page?	**"Snatched" shows that the narrator grabs the page quickly and urgently.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Inside the crowded museum, I reached for my sketchbook and found an empty pocket. I darted between the tall displays, my heartbeat rattling like coins in a jar. Near the entrance, I spotted the blue cover beneath a bench and tugged it free. I hugged the book against my chest, and my shoulders relaxed.

For the marking job, accept precise verbs such as "lurched," "fluttered," "snatched," and "smoothed." Accept comparisons such as "like startled moths," "thin as thread," and "like a bright bird"; question answers may use different wording if they explain the effect.