Thought or Not?

Sort complete sentences and fragments.

L.4.1 "When writing or speaking, demonstrate command of the conventions of General American English grammar and usage. Use relative pronouns and relative adverbs. Use the progressive verb tenses..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb. It tells a full thought.

Lanterns glow.

FRAGMENT

A fragment does not tell a full thought. It may be missing a subject or a verb.

Under tall oaks.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the matching category for each item, then pick one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1.	Fireflies blink at dusk.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
2.	Our class planted seeds.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
3.	The playful kitten.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
4.	Marcus carried the basket.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
5.	After the rainstorm.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
6.	Across the quiet pond.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
7.	The drummer tapped a beat.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
8.	Purple balloons floated upward.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new complete sentence and one new fragment.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Turn one fragment from the sort into a complete sentence by adding words, then name its subject and verb.

ANSWER KEY

Thought or Not?

GRADE 4 · L.4.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Fireflies blink at dusk.	**COMPLETE**	Fireflies is the subject, blink is the verb, and the thought is complete.
2	Our class planted seeds.	**COMPLETE**	Class is the subject, planted is the verb, and the thought is complete.
3	The playful kitten.	**FRAGMENT**	It names a kitten but has no verb.
4	Marcus carried the basket.	**COMPLETE**	Marcus is the subject, carried is the verb, and the thought is complete.
5	After the rainstorm.	**FRAGMENT**	It tells when but has no subject or verb.
6	Across the quiet pond.	**FRAGMENT**	It tells where but has no subject or verb.
7	The drummer tapped a beat.	**COMPLETE**	Drummer is the subject, tapped is the verb, and the thought is complete.
8	Purple balloons floated upward.	**COMPLETE**	Balloons is the subject, floated is the verb, and the thought is complete.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPLETE**: Rabbits hop quickly.
- **FRAGMENT**: Behind my bookshelf.

Challenge: The playful kitten chased a string. Subject: kitten. Verb: chased.

For Part 2, explanations should identify what makes each chosen item complete or unfinished. For example, item 3 names a kitten but has no verb, while item 4 has the subject Marcus and the verb carried.