Stories Return

Notice how word choices change the mood of a story.

RL.5.4 "Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings, and analyze how those words and phrases shape meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three phrases that describe something in a way that is not literal. Circle two words that help you feel how the corner's mood changes.

The Little Library

1. On Saturday, Mira found the little library leaning beside the sidewalk. Last night's wind had torn off its door, and rain had turned the books into soggy bricks. She held up a dripping mystery novel. "We should throw it all away," her brother Ben said. Mira looked at the empty shelf. Without the books, the corner felt strangely quiet, as if a friend had moved away.

2. Mira carried the ruined books home, but she saved the library box. Ben brought a screwdriver, and their neighbor offered spare wood. By noon, the three of them had made a new door. Mira painted it yellow, a small square of sunshine on the gray street. When she set the box outside, she worried that no one would trust it with another book.

3. That evening, Mira spotted a dry book behind the new door. The next morning, the shelf held four more. Each day, someone left a book or took one home. Ben called the box a tiny harbor for stories. Mira liked that. The storm had scattered their books, but now stories were sailing in from every house on the block.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does "soggy bricks" tell you about the books? Why is that phrase stronger than saying the books were wet?

2. Why does the corner feel "as if a friend had moved away"? What feeling does this comparison add?

3. What does "a small square of sunshine" describe? How does it affect the mood of the gray street?

4. Ben calls the box "a tiny harbor for stories." What does "harbor" suggest about the box at the end of the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about how the sidewalk corner changes from the start to the end. Use a new figurative phrase of your own, then explain what your phrase helps the reader feel.

ANSWER KEY # Stories Return

GRADE 5 · RL.5.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three phrases that describe something in a way that is not literal. Circle two words that help you feel how the corner's mood changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does "soggy bricks" tell you about the books? Why is that phrase stronger than saying the books were wet?	**The books are soaked and heavy. "Soggy bricks" makes the damage easier to picture.**
2	Why does the corner feel "as if a friend had moved away"? What feeling does this comparison add?	**The missing books make the corner feel empty. The comparison adds a sense of loss.**
3	What does "a small square of sunshine" describe? How does it affect the mood of the gray street?	**It describes the yellow door. The phrase makes the street feel brighter and more hopeful.**
4	Ben calls the box "a tiny harbor for stories." What does "harbor" suggest about the box at the end of the story?	**Like a harbor that welcomes boats, the box welcomes books from around the block. It suggests the library is useful and cared for again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, the sidewalk corner seemed deserted, but by the end it was a warm campfire where neighbors shared stories. My campfire image helps readers feel how the books bring people together.

Accept explanations that connect each phrase to its meaning in the passage and its effect on the mood. For Part 3, look for an original figurative phrase and an explanation of the feeling it creates.