

Garden Word Pictures

Notice comparisons, opposite meanings, and precise word choices.

5L5 “Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each comparison or phrase that creates a nonliteral picture. Circle the two words in paragraph 2 that show opposite stem positions.

After the Rain

- ① On Saturday, Maya entered the community garden just after rain. Water pearls clung to the bean leaves, and the soil smelled rich and earthy. Her class had planted the garden in spring. Now the zucchini vines sprawled across the bed like green blankets, while bees zigzagged from flower to flower. Maya carried a small basket for the harvest.
- ② At the carrot row, Maya noticed that one stem drooped, but another stood upright. She gently lifted the drooping stem and pressed soil around its base. “This plant looks tired,” she said. Her friend Luis smiled. “It cannot nap, but it may need water.” A thin trickle soon became a steady stream from the watering can nearby.
- ③ By noon, the garden buzzed with work. Maya did not simply walk along the paths, she marched from bed to bed, checking each plant. When she found three ripe tomatoes, her face was sunshine. She picked them carefully and placed them in her basket. The bright fruit would become salsa for the school tasting table.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the comparison “like green blankets” help you picture about the zucchini vines?

2 Which two words in paragraph 2 are opposites, and what opposite positions do they describe?

3 Why is “marched” a stronger word choice than “walked” for Maya’s movement in paragraph 3?

4 What does “her face was sunshine” mean?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences about caring for a plant. Include one simile or metaphor and one precise verb that shows how someone moves.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each comparison or phrase that creates a nonliteral picture. Circle the two words in paragraph 2 that show opposite stem positions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the comparison “like green blankets” help you picture about the zucchini vines?	The vines spread broadly across and covered the garden bed, like blankets.
2	Which two words in paragraph 2 are opposites, and what opposite positions do they describe?	Drooped and upright. Drooped means bent or hanging down, while upright means standing straight up.
3	Why is “marched” a stronger word choice than “walked” for Maya’s movement in paragraph 3?	Marched suggests that Maya moved with purpose and energy as she checked the plants. Walked is more neutral.
4	What does “her face was sunshine” mean?	It means Maya’s face showed happiness or delight when she found the tomatoes.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nora glided to the window with the seedling. Its new leaves were tiny green flags.

Accept accurate explanations of the figurative phrases and of the opposite relationship between drooped and upright. For the open response, accept any two sentences that include a clear simile or metaphor and a specific movement verb.