

Pond Words at Dusk

Use context and figurative language to uncover meaning and mood.

5R4 "Determine the meaning of words, phrases, figurative language, academic, and content-specific words and analyze their effect on meaning, tone, or mood. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline context clues that help you figure out important words, then circle two figurative phrases and number them 1 and 2 in the order they appear.

Maya Listens at the Pond

- ① At dusk, Maya carried her notebook to the pond behind the library. A cool mist curled above the water, and the reeds whispered in the breeze. Her science club planned to observe frogs, which are amphibians, animals that can live on land and in water. Maya hoped to record the calls she heard without disturbing the pond's quiet visitors.
- ② Near a flat stone, Maya spotted a green frog resting beside a clump of grass. Its mottled skin provided camouflage, helping it blend into its surroundings. Then a bicycle bell rang on the path. The frog's eyes flashed open, and it sprang away like a tiny arrow. Maya froze, her pencil hovering above the page for one long moment.
- ③ After the bell faded, Maya stayed still and listened. A low croak rose from the cattails, followed by another from the far bank. The pond was an orchestra tuning its instruments. Maya numbered each call in her notebook and compared the sounds. As darkness settled, she felt patient rather than disappointed. The hidden frogs had turned a simple observation into a small mystery.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 In paragraph 1, what does *observe* mean? Which words in the paragraph help you determine its meaning?

2 What does *camouflage* mean in paragraph 2? How does camouflage help the frog?

3 The passage says, "the reeds whispered in the breeze." What do reeds not literally do? What mood does this phrase create?

4 What does "The pond was an orchestra tuning its instruments" suggest about the frog calls? How does this comparison affect the mood?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a quiet outdoor place. Use one content-specific word and one figurative phrase. In the third sentence, explain what mood your word choices create.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline context clues that help you figure out important words, then circle two figurative phrases and number them 1 and 2 in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does <i>observe</i> mean? Which words in the paragraph help you determine its meaning?	Observe means to watch carefully. Clues include Maya carrying a notebook, planning to record calls, and listening without disturbing the frogs.
2	What does <i>camouflage</i> mean in paragraph 2? How does camouflage help the frog?	Camouflage means coloring or patterns that help an animal blend into its surroundings. The frog's mottled skin helps it blend into the grass or nearby area.
3	The passage says, "the reeds whispered in the breeze." What do reeds not literally do? What mood does this phrase create?	Reeds do not literally whisper. The phrase suggests a soft rustling sound and creates a quiet, peaceful mood.
4	What does "The pond was an orchestra tuning its instruments" suggest about the frog calls? How does this comparison affect the mood?	It suggests that different frog calls were beginning one after another, like instruments making sounds before music starts. The comparison creates a patient, mysterious mood.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The wetland habitat held still pools beneath the tall grass. Moonlight painted silver paths across the water. These words create a calm, secret mood.

Accept reasonable definitions supported by context clues and mood descriptions supported by the language in the passage. For Your Turn, accept varied outdoor settings if the response includes a content-specific word, a figurative phrase, and a clear explanation of mood.