

# Harbor After Dark

Use context clues to interpret nonliteral descriptions.

**6L5.a** "Interpret figurative language, including personification, in context."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each phrase that gives a nonhuman thing a human action or trait. Circle each comparison that uses *like*, then use your marks to infer what the descriptions mean.

### Fog at the Harbor

- ① At dusk, Maya walked along the harbor pier while her uncle tied his boat to the dock. The water slapped the wooden posts, and gulls called above the fishing boats. A cold wind slipped through Maya's jacket. Across the bay, the lighthouse began to blink. Its beam swept over the darkening water, helping boats find the narrow entrance between the rocky points. Maya had visited the harbor many times, but tonight the familiar place seemed to be waking into a different kind of life.
- ② Then fog rolled in from the open sea. The lighthouse stood like a watchful giant on the hill. Its bright eye searched the water again and again. Near the pier, the fog wrapped its gray blanket around the boats, softening their outlines. Maya could no longer see the far shore. Even the bell buoy, which bobbed beyond the rocks, sounded like it was calling from inside a dream. Her uncle checked the rope and listened carefully for other boats.
- ③ "The harbor has a voice tonight," Maya said. Her uncle smiled and pointed to the water. "Listen to what it is saying." The tide pulled at the pier's steps, tugging and releasing them with a steady rhythm. Maya understood that the sea was not truly speaking or pulling with hands. These descriptions helped her notice the sounds and motion around her. As the boat's engine started, the harbor slowly released them, and they moved toward the lighthouse's blinking path.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What does "Its bright eye searched the water" mean? What part of the lighthouse is its "eye"?

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**2** What does the phrase "the fog wrapped its gray blanket around the boats" mean?

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**3** How does comparing the lighthouse to "a watchful giant" help you picture the lighthouse?

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**4** What does "the harbor slowly released them" mean in the last sentence? Use details from the paragraph.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences describing a place during a change in weather or light. Use personification in one sentence and a comparison with *like* or *as* in the other sentence.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each phrase that gives a nonhuman thing a human action or trait. Circle each comparison that uses *like*, then use your marks to infer what the descriptions mean. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                               | ANSWER                                                                                                                   |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does “Its bright eye searched the water” mean? What part of the lighthouse is its “eye”?          | <b>The lighthouse beam moved across the water as if it were searching. The beam is the lighthouse’s “eye.”</b>           |
| 2 | What does the phrase “the fog wrapped its gray blanket around the boats” mean?                         | <b>The fog surrounded the boats and made them harder to see.</b>                                                         |
| 3 | How does comparing the lighthouse to “a watchful giant” help you picture the lighthouse?               | <b>It helps the reader picture the lighthouse as tall, powerful, and alert as it watches over the harbor.</b>            |
| 4 | What does “the harbor slowly released them” mean in the last sentence? Use details from the paragraph. | <b>The boat left the harbor and began moving away. The engine had started, and the boat moved toward the lighthouse.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Rain tapped impatiently on the bus shelter, asking everyone to hurry inside. The wet street shone like a silver ribbon beneath the lamps.

Accept reasonable interpretations supported by the passage. For Part 3, check that the response has exactly two sentences, includes clear personification, and includes a comparison using *like* or *as*.