

# Garden Words Grow

Track comparisons, opposites, and precise verbs in a garden scene.

**6L5** "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 complete italicized expression labeled [1] through [4], circle the exact bold verbs **yanked** and **tugged**, and draw a box around the exact bold words **empty** and **full** to study figurative language, word relationships, and shades of meaning.

### Saturday Garden Work

- ① At dawn, Maya unlocked the gate of the neighborhood garden. Dew clung to bean leaves, and the paths were still. In the growing light, the garden looked like a [1] *quilt of green squares*, with each bed stitched beside the next. Near the fence, tomatoes hung in clusters. Their round fruit seemed to [2] *wear red lanterns* among the vines. Maya wrote the day's jobs on a clipboard for the Saturday work session.
- ② When Luis arrived, he began clearing weeds from the carrot bed. A thick root held one weed in place. Luis **yanked** the stem with a quick, hard pull, while Maya **tugged** a smaller weed gently so she would not disturb a carrot. As they worked, the sun [3] *climbed the blue sky*. The soil was dry, so they carried water from a barrel near the old tool shed. Soon, the thirsty ground [4] *drank every drop*.
- ③ By noon, the garden had changed from nearly **empty** to **full**. The air smelled of wet soil and basil. Volunteers harvested lettuce and placed it in baskets for the food pantry. Maya examined leaves for holes before choosing the best ones. Tiny insects hid beneath some leaves. Luis did not shout across the garden. Instead, he called to Maya in a clear voice when a basket was ready. The workers left the paths tidy and easy to walk for tomorrow's visitors.

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

**1** What two things does expression [1] compare?

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**2** Expression [4] gives the ground an action people do. What action is it, and what really happened?

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**3** Which bold verb shows greater force, **yanked** or **tugged**? Use details from the passage to explain.

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**4** How are the bold words **empty** and **full** related in paragraph 3?

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

Write exactly three sentences about a place you know. Include one metaphor or personification, two verbs that show different levels of force, and one pair of opposite words. Underline the figurative phrase, circle the two verbs, and box the opposite words.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each complete italicized expression labeled [1] through [4], circle the exact bold verbs **yanked** and **tugged**, and draw a box around the exact bold words **empty** and **full** to study figurative language, word relationships, and shades of meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                       | ANSWER                                                                                       |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What two things does expression [1] compare?                                                                   | <b>It compares the garden, especially its square beds, to a quilt made of green squares.</b> |
| 2 | Expression [4] gives the ground an action people do. What action is it, and what really happened?              | <b>The ground is described as drinking. In reality, the dry soil absorbed the water.</b>     |
| 3 | Which bold verb shows greater force, <b>yanked</b> or <b>tugged</b> ? Use details from the passage to explain. | <b>Yanked shows greater force because it is a quick, hard pull, while tugged is gentle.</b>  |
| 4 | How are the bold words <b>empty</b> and <b>full</b> related in paragraph 3?                                    | <b>They are opposites.</b>                                                                   |

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

The playground was a buzzing beehive at recess. I **pushed** the swing, but Devon **shoved** it harder. At first the field was [empty], and later it was [full].

Accept other accurate explanations of the numbered figurative expressions when students identify both the human action and the literal meaning. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, a clear metaphor or personification, two verbs with different force, and a pair of opposites.