

Words in the Storm

Track comparisons, relationships, and precise word choices.

7L5 “Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three comparisons that use *like*, circle the three adverbs in paragraphs 1 and 2 that tell how Mara moves or handles plants, and box the two adjectives in paragraph 2 that compare the wind's force. These marks show figurative comparisons and precise shades of meaning.

Greenhouse Before the Storm

- ① At dawn, Mara entered the school greenhouse carrying a tray of bean seedlings. Rain tapped the glass like impatient fingers, and the narrow aisles smelled of wet soil. On a bench, one seedling leaned toward the window, its thin stem a question mark. Mara set the tray down gently. She had promised to move the plants before the cold front arrived, but the storm had rushed in early. The greenhouse felt like a small boat surrounded by gray water.
- ② Mara worked quickly, yet she handled each pot carefully. She loosened the crowded roots with a pencil, then placed the seedlings in a deeper box. The roots, hidden beneath the soil, were finding their way through the tangled clump. Outside, wind shoved at the door. “That gust is fierce,” said Mr. Vale, the caretaker. Mara nodded, choosing the word *fierce* instead of *strong* because the wind seemed rough and threatening. Her hands were busy, but her voice stayed calm.
- ③ By noon, the rain had softened, and pale light spilled across the benches. Mara carried the box to a warmer shelf near the heater. The seedlings no longer looked like a question mark army. Their leaves lifted, small green flags above the dark soil. Mr. Vale checked the door latch and said, “You acted promptly.” Mara smiled. Promptly meant she had acted without delay, while carefully described the cautious way she moved the plants. The storm still grumbled outside, but the greenhouse had become a harbor again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does “Rain tapped the glass like impatient fingers” suggest about the rain?

2 What does the comparison of the seedling’s stem to a question mark tell you about its shape?

3 What is the relationship between the roots and the seedlings? Use a detail from the passage.

4 Why does Mara choose *fierce* instead of *strong* to describe the wind?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a two-sentence scene about someone preparing for bad weather. Include one comparison using *like* and two adverbs that show different ways the person acts.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three comparisons that use *like*, circle the three adverbs in paragraphs 1 and 2 that tell how Mara moves or handles plants, and box the two adjectives in paragraph 2 that compare the wind's force. These marks show figurative comparisons and precise shades of meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does "Rain tapped the glass like impatient fingers" suggest about the rain?	It suggests that the rain made rapid, restless tapping sounds against the glass.
2	What does the comparison of the seedling's stem to a question mark tell you about its shape?	The stem is curved or bent as it leans toward the window.
3	What is the relationship between the roots and the seedlings? Use a detail from the passage.	The roots are the part of the seedlings beneath the soil. They are finding their way through the tangled clump.
4	Why does Mara choose <i>fierce</i> instead of <i>strong</i> to describe the wind?	Fierce suggests that the wind is rough and threatening, while strong only describes its power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As the museum windows rattled, rain drummed like a thousand tiny sticks. Lena quietly stacked the exhibit cards, then swiftly locked the display case.

Accept equivalent explanations of the repeated, restless rain sound and the curved stem. For the open task, require exactly two sentences, a comparison using *like*, and two adverbs that describe distinct ways the person acts.