

Harbor at Dawn

Track figurative language, connotation, and a word with more than one meaning.

7R4 "Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings. Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning, tone, and mood, including words with multiple meanings. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three italicized phrases, then circle and number every bold form of *watch*, including *watched*, 1 through 3 in reading order.

The Overnight Watch

- ① Fog rolled across Bellwether Harbor as Lena climbed the narrow stairs of the old signal tower. At seventeen, she had volunteered for an overnight shift with the harbor patrol. Her uncle handed her a brass lantern and said she would take the first **watch**. Below, fishing boats knocked softly against the dock, and *the harbor held its breath*. Lena felt the quiet settle on her shoulders like a heavy coat. The clouds hid every star above.
- ② Near midnight, a low horn sounded beyond the breakwater. Lena leaned over the rail and **watched** a small sailboat drift too close to the rocks. Its engine had stopped, and the boat's pale beam flashed once, then vanished. She rang the tower bell, waking her uncle below. As he called the coast guard, wind rattled the tower windows, and *fear crept through Lena's chest*. Still, she kept the lantern pointed toward the boat in the dark.
- ③ Minutes later, the coast guard boat appeared, cutting a bright path through the gray water. Its crew reached the sailboat and guided it away from the rocks. Lena heard the rescued captain laugh, a sound that loosened the tightness in her throat. When her uncle returned upstairs, he said the next **watch** could wait until morning. Outside, *the dawn spilled gold across the water*, and the tower no longer seemed lonely. Lena stood taller beside the lantern.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the phrase *the harbor held its breath* mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

2 How does the word *rattled* affect the mood in paragraph 2? How would *moved* create a different mood?

3 What does **watch** mean in paragraph 1, and what does **watched** mean in paragraph 2?

4 What does *the dawn spilled gold across the water* mean? Explain how this word choice changes the mood from paragraph 2 to paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a place during a change in weather. Use one word with two meanings, once as a noun and once as a verb, and add one figurative phrase. Underline the figurative phrase and circle the word you use twice.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three italicized phrases, then circle and number every bold form of *watch*, including *watched*, 1 through 3 in reading order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase <i>the harbor held its breath</i> mean as it is used in paragraph 1?	The harbor was very still and quiet, as if everything were waiting.
2	How does the word <i>rattled</i> affect the mood in paragraph 2? How would <i>moved</i> create a different mood?	Rattled makes the wind seem loud, harsh, and unsettling, creating a tense mood. Moved would sound gentler and less threatening.
3	What does watch mean in paragraph 1, and what does watched mean in paragraph 2?	In paragraph 1, watch means a scheduled period of guard duty. In paragraph 2, watched means looked at carefully.
4	What does <i>the dawn spilled gold across the water</i> mean? Explain how this word choice changes the mood from paragraph 2 to paragraph 3.	It means the warm golden light of sunrise spread across the water. It changes the mood from fear and tension to relief and hope.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As the rain slowed, puddles winked beneath the swings at the empty playground. I used my phone's **light** to **light** the path home.

Accept accurate explanations of the figurative phrases and reasonable descriptions of their effects on tone or mood. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence scene that uses one word accurately as both a noun and a verb and includes a clear figurative phrase.