

Garden After Dark

Read closely to see how figurative and precise language shape a scene.

8L5 "Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three phrases that give nonhuman things human actions or make unusual comparisons, and circle two words that create a worried or calm feeling, so you can study how word choices shape meaning.

Seeds Before the Storm

- ① At dusk, Maya unlocked the gate to the community garden. The tomato vines reached across their stakes like eager hands. A breeze whispered through the bean leaves, carrying the sharp scent of wet soil. Maya walked slowly between the beds, listening as the city noise softened beyond the fence. The garden was a small island, calm but alert, in the restless neighborhood. Streetlights flickered above the sidewalk, and a bus groaned away from the corner.
- ② Near the compost bin, Maya found a paper sign, rain-smudged but readable: "SAVE THE SEEDS." Someone had tucked envelopes beneath a stone. Maya felt a spark of curiosity, then a prickle of worry. The word save felt like a plea, not a routine reminder. She gathered the envelopes, protecting them from the damp ground, while thunder muttered beyond the rooftops. The tiny packets held future gardens, and their fragile paper seemed to carry a quiet command. "Maybe someone needs these," Maya thought.
- ③ At the far bed, Maya noticed an older neighbor, Mr. Ortiz, searching the path with a flashlight. His face was drawn, and his voice was thin when he asked about the envelopes. Maya handed them over. Relief warmed his expression; the storm no longer seemed to stalk the garden. Together, they secured the seeds in a dry shed. Outside, rain drummed a steady rhythm, but the garden held its ground until morning came quietly at last.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What comparison is made when the tomato vines reach "like eager hands"? What does it suggest about the vines?

2 What does the metaphor "a small island" suggest about the garden compared with the neighborhood around it?

3 How does calling the word "save" a "plea" instead of a "routine reminder" change its meaning?

4 Compare the storm that seems to "stalk" the garden with the rain that "drummed a steady rhythm." How does the word choice change the mood?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a familiar place during changing weather. Include one simile or metaphor, one example of personification, and two words that show a difference in feeling.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three phrases that give nonhuman things human actions or make unusual comparisons, and circle two words that create a worried or calm feeling, so you can study how word choices shape meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What comparison is made when the tomato vines reach "like eager hands"? What does it suggest about the vines?	The vines are compared to eager hands. The comparison suggests that they stretch or reach actively and energetically.
2	What does the metaphor "a small island" suggest about the garden compared with the neighborhood around it?	It suggests that the garden is a separate, sheltered, calm place within a restless neighborhood.
3	How does calling the word "save" a "plea" instead of a "routine reminder" change its meaning?	"Plea" makes the message sound urgent and needy, while a routine reminder would sound ordinary and less important.
4	Compare the storm that seems to "stalk" the garden with the rain that "drummed a steady rhythm." How does the word choice change the mood?	"Stalk" makes the storm seem threatening, like a predator. "Drummed a steady rhythm" makes the rain seem more regular and less dangerous, showing that the threat has eased.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After practice, the empty gym became a cave, cool and echoing. Rain tapped impatient fingers on the high windows while my teammates packed their bags. When the final door clicked shut, the building felt lonely rather than peaceful.

Accept reasonable explanations that connect each figurative phrase or precise word choice to its effect on meaning or mood. For Part 3, check for exactly three sentences, a clear comparison, personification, and a meaningful contrast in feeling words.