Words That Work

Notice how exact words make a test clear.

4.4.W.1 "Students will use grade-level vocabulary in writing to clearly communicate ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six exact words that name parts of the bridge or show what happened to it. Notice how those words help you picture the test.

The Paper Bridge Test

1. At our class bridge challenge, I laid a sheet of paper across two stacks of books. The stacks were the supports, and the open space between them was the span. I placed one coin in the center. The paper sagged, and the coin slid into the gap. I needed a stronger bridge, but I could use only one sheet of paper.

2. I folded the paper back and forth to make narrow ridges. Those folds reinforced the bridge without adding another sheet. I set the folded paper across the same supports, then stacked coins in the center, one at a time. The bridge held twelve coins before it dipped. My partner wrote down the result so we could compare it with our first test.

3. Next, I measured the span with a ruler. It was fifteen centimeters wide. We moved the supports farther apart and tested the folded bridge again. This time, it held only seven coins before the middle drooped. The longer span made the paper less steady. I recorded both results in my notebook, using exact words and numbers so another group could repeat our test.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which word in paragraph 1 names the stacks of books more clearly than “things under the paper”?

2. Which word in paragraph 1 tells how the paper bent under the coin? Use the word in a sentence about the first test.

3. Which word in paragraph 2 shows that the folds made the bridge stronger? Tell what the writer did.

4. Which word in paragraph 3 tells how the writer checked the span? Why is that word clearer than “looked”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences about testing a paper airplane of your own design. Use at least three exact words that name its parts or describe its flight, and tell what you changed and what happened.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Work

GRADE 4 · 4.4.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six exact words that name parts of the bridge or show what happened to it. Notice how those words help you picture the test. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word in paragraph 1 names the stacks of books more clearly than “things under the paper”?	**Supports.**
2	Which word in paragraph 1 tells how the paper bent under the coin? Use the word in a sentence about the first test.	**Sagged. The paper sagged when the writer placed a coin on it.**
3	Which word in paragraph 2 shows that the folds made the bridge stronger? Tell what the writer did.	**Reinforced. The writer folded the paper back and forth to strengthen it.**
4	Which word in paragraph 3 tells how the writer checked the span? Why is that word clearer than “looked”?	**Measured. It tells the reader that the writer used a ruler to find the span's length.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I folded the wings of my paper airplane so their edges lined up. On the first throw, its nose dipped and it landed near my feet. I bent the back edges of the wings upward and tried again. This time, the plane glided across the room before it landed.

For the marking job, accept words such as supports, span, sagged, reinforced, dipped, and drooped. For Part 3, look for four or five sentences, at least three exact words, a change, and its result.