Before the Frost

Read a garden story and notice how word choices shape its meaning.

5.3.R.4 "Students will determine how literary devices contribute to the meaning of a text: • imagery • metaphor • idiom • personification • hyperbole • simile • alliteration • onomatopoeia"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the comparisons that describe the sky and the shed hinge, and circle the word that sounds like the gate; beside each mark, jot what it helps you picture or hear.

The Night Before the Swap

1. The night before the town's spring plant swap, Mara checked the school garden. The sky was a gray blanket, and the cold air nipped her ears. Clack! The loose gate struck its post. A thin layer of ice glittered on the path. In the last bed, tiny bean plants leaned in the wind. Mara had promised to bring those seedlings to the swap.

2. She ran to the tool shed, but the door stuck. 'Come on,' she whispered, pulling with all her might. The rusty hinge squealed like a sleepy mouse. When the door finally opened, Mara found a stack of old bedsheets. She spread them over the plants, but the sheets kept sliding off. She needed something to hold them down before the wind carried them away.

3. Her brother Eli arrived with a bucket of smooth stones. 'That's a mountain of plants to cover,' he said, staring at the long row. Together, they tucked the sheet edges beneath the stones. The wind tugged, but the covers stayed put. At sunrise, Mara lifted one corner. The leaves were still green. She smiled, not because she had beaten the weather, but because she had not faced it alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does calling the sky “a gray blanket” help you picture?

2. The cold air “nipped” Mara's ears. How does that word help you understand the cold?

3. How does “Clack!” help you imagine the gate striking its post?

4. Eli calls the row “a mountain of plants.” What does this exaggeration show about the job ahead?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a character solving a problem somewhere other than a garden. Include a simile or metaphor and a sound word. Then write one more sentence explaining how one device helps a reader picture or hear the moment.

ANSWER KEY # Before the Frost

GRADE 5 · 5.3.R.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the comparisons that describe the sky and the shed hinge, and circle the word that sounds like the gate; beside each mark, jot what it helps you picture or hear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does calling the sky “a gray blanket” help you picture?	**It helps the reader picture a gray sky covering the garden.**
2	The cold air “nipped” Mara's ears. How does that word help you understand the cold?	**It makes the cold feel sharp and uncomfortable.**
3	How does “Clack!” help you imagine the gate striking its post?	**It helps the reader hear the gate's sudden, hard sound.**
4	Eli calls the row “a mountain of plants.” What does this exaggeration show about the job ahead?	**The row feels so long that covering it seems like a big job.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the bus stop, Niko's paper map became a runaway kite in the wind. Whoosh! It hit a fence, and Niko caught it before the bus arrived. The word “Whoosh” helps the reader hear the sudden rush of wind.

Accept descriptions that explain what each word choice helps the reader picture, feel, or hear. For Your Turn, check for a four-sentence response set outside a garden, with a problem solved, a simile or metaphor, a sound word, and an explanation of one device's effect.