Pools Between Tides

Trace how sentence structure shapes a changing shore.

7.5.R.1 "Students will recognize simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences and explain their effects."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one simple, one compound, one complex, and one compound-complex sentence; label them S, CP, CX, and CC, then circle any words that join clauses to help you notice how each structure shapes the reading.

A World Left Behind

1 The tide retreats. The water drops, and a rocky world appears. On a stretch of coast, shallow pools stay behind in cracks and hollows. When the tide pulls back, these pools become tiny islands of seawater. A crab edges beneath a stone, while a sea anemone closes its tentacles around passing food. The pools may look quiet from above, but each one holds animals that must handle a sudden change. For a few hours, the shore has two worlds: open sea and trapped pools.

2 Sunlight warms the shallow water. As the sun climbs, a pool can grow warmer than the nearby sea. Some animals hide in shade, and others squeeze into cool cracks. A small fish cannot simply leave because rocks surround its pool. When the tide returns, the pools fill again, and the animals face a new rush of water. Seawater covers the rocks, and the scattered pools join the sea again. In this shifting place, shelter matters as much as speed.

3 Visitors often hurry past tide pools on their way to the beach. If they pause at the edge, they may spot a snail creeping over green algae. A shell seems empty, but a hermit crab might carry it across the stones. The crab protects its soft body inside a borrowed shell. Although a pool looks small, its residents share a space that changes every few hours, and careful visitors can watch without touching them. A shoe can crush a hidden animal, so staying on dry rock keeps the pool safer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, why is "The tide retreats." a simple sentence? What effect does it create at the opening?

2. Why is "The water drops, and a rocky world appears." a compound sentence? What connection does it help you see?

3. In paragraph 2, why is the sentence beginning "As the sun climbs" complex? How does its structure show change in the pool?

4. Why is the sentence beginning "When the tide returns" compound-complex? What effect does that structure create?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini scene about a sudden change at a place you know. Use one simple, one compound, one complex, and one compound-complex sentence in that order; label each S, CP, CX, or CC, then add one sentence explaining how one sentence's structure affects the scene.

ANSWER KEY # Pools Between Tides

GRADE 7 · 7.5.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one simple, one compound, one complex, and one compound-complex sentence; label them S, CP, CX, and CC, then circle any words that join clauses to help you notice how each structure shapes the reading. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, why is "The tide retreats." a simple sentence? What effect does it create at the opening?	**It has one independent clause and no dependent clause. Its brief, direct opening makes the change feel immediate.**
2	Why is "The water drops, and a rocky world appears." a compound sentence? What connection does it help you see?	**It joins two independent clauses with "and." It connects the falling water to the appearance of the rocky habitat.**
3	In paragraph 2, why is the sentence beginning "As the sun climbs" complex? How does its structure show change in the pool?	**It has a dependent clause beginning with "As" and an independent clause. The opening clause links the passage of time to the warming pool.**
4	Why is the sentence beginning "When the tide returns" compound-complex? What effect does that structure create?	**It has a dependent clause beginning with "When" and two independent clauses joined by "and." It shows when two related changes happen and makes the returning tide feel active.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

S: The lights went out. CP: Our hallway fell silent, and my brother grabbed a flashlight. CX: When the thunder cracked, the windows rattled. CC: Although the storm moved away, the lights stayed off, and we ate dinner by candlelight. The short simple sentence makes the change feel sudden.

Accept other correctly identified sentences from the passage for the marking task. For written responses, check that each label matches its sentence structure and that the stated effect follows from that structure.