Clues in Italics

Read a cleanup story and sort three uses of italics.

7.5.W.10 "Students will use underlining or italics to indicate titles of works, thoughts in narratives, and words in a foreign language."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline titles of works, circle private thoughts, and write F above Spanish words to show why each part is italicized.

Cleanup at the Creek

1 On Saturday, our neighborhood library held a creek cleanup beside the old footbridge. I brought a slim field guide called *Creekside Neighbors* because its drawings helped me recognize animal tracks. My friend Luz spotted a muddy print near a soda can. *Could a raccoon have walked here last night?* I wondered, keeping my question to myself. Luz pointed to the guide's page about paw prints, but the rain had blurred our find. We picked up the can and moved farther along the bank, where the mud was firmer.

2 At the bend, a volunteer named Mr. Vega called, "*Cuidado*," as Luz stepped toward a slippery stone. He explained that the Spanish word meant "careful," and she backed away. Beneath the bridge, someone had taped a laminated copy of the poem *River in a Bottle* to a post. Its lines described how litter travels downstream after a storm. *How far could this plastic wrapper float?* I thought as I lifted it from a root. We sorted the wrapper into the trash bag and saved a glass bottle for recycling.

3 When the bags were full, Mr. Vega said, "*Gracias*," and translated it as "thank you." Luz showed him a dry page from *Creekside Neighbors*, but he pointed out that our muddy print might also belong to a small dog. *We need a clearer track before we decide*, I told myself. Back at the library, I wrote the cleanup notes under the heading *What the Creek Carried*. That heading would become the title of our class report. I listed what we had collected, not what I guessed had visited the bank.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which italicized words in paragraph 1 name a work? What kind of work is it?

2. Which italicized question in paragraph 2 is a private thought? What words show that it was not spoken aloud?

3. Which italicized word in paragraph 2 is Spanish? What does it mean in the passage?

4. In paragraph 3, which italicized words are the narrator's private thought, and which are the title of the class report?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about finding a lost object. Include a named work, one private thought, and one Spanish word, and italicize each of those three parts. Make the Spanish word's meaning clear from context.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in Italics

GRADE 7 · 7.5.W.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline titles of works, circle private thoughts, and write F above Spanish words to show why each part is italicized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which italicized words in paragraph 1 name a work? What kind of work is it?	***Creekside Neighbors* is a field guide.**
2	Which italicized question in paragraph 2 is a private thought? What words show that it was not spoken aloud?	***How far could this plastic wrapper float?* is a private thought. The narrator follows it with "I thought."**
3	Which italicized word in paragraph 2 is Spanish? What does it mean in the passage?	***Cuidado* is Spanish for "careful."**
4	In paragraph 3, which italicized words are the narrator's private thought, and which are the title of the class report?	***We need a clearer track before we decide* is the private thought. *What the Creek Carried* is the report title.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the bus stop, I dropped my copy of *Moon Maps*. I checked beneath the bench, thinking, *I might never find it.* My brother called, "*Aquí*," which means "here," and pointed to the book beside his shoe. I picked it up and tucked it safely into my bag.

Accept the italicized thought in paragraph 1 if a student uses it to explain how private thoughts appear in the passage. For the open task, check for four sentences and correctly italicized examples of all three uses.