Who Does It Mean?

Sort sentences by how clearly their pronouns point to nouns.

5.LF.39.c "Use varied pronouns and their antecedents correctly in composing and revising writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR	UNCLEAR
A pronoun points to one clear noun. That noun is its antecedent. The lantern flickered until it went out.	A pronoun could point to two different nouns. The reader cannot tell for sure which noun it means. Milo asked Nico whether he could open the gate.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or UNCLEAR for each sentence; then choose two items, name one pronoun in each, and explain which noun it means or which two nouns it could mean.

1. Kai found a shell, and he put it in his pocket. CLEAR UNCLEAR
2. Ava called Ella when she got home. CLEAR UNCLEAR
3. Leo texted Ben after he won the race. CLEAR UNCLEAR
4. The puppies barked when they heard thunder. CLEAR UNCLEAR
5. Nora dropped her scarf, so she picked it up. CLEAR UNCLEAR
6. The bees returned to the hive, and they made honey. CLEAR UNCLEAR
7. Jada thanked Priya because she shared the notes. CLEAR UNCLEAR
8. The violin was dusty, so Claire polished it. CLEAR UNCLEAR

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new CLEAR sentence and one new UNCLEAR sentence. Include a pronoun and at least one noun it might mean in each sentence.

CLEAR _____

UNCLEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one UNCLEAR sentence from the sort and rewrite it so its pronoun clearly points to one noun. Include the item number.

ANSWER KEY # Who Does It Mean?

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.39.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Kai found a shell, and he put it in his pocket.	**CLEAR**	He and his refer to Kai; it refers to the shell.
2	Ava called Ella when she got home.	**UNCLEAR**	She could refer to Ava or Ella.
3	Leo texted Ben after he won the race.	**UNCLEAR**	He could refer to Leo or Ben.
4	The puppies barked when they heard thunder.	**CLEAR**	They refers to the puppies.
5	Nora dropped her scarf, so she picked it up.	**CLEAR**	Her and she refer to Nora; it refers to the scarf.
6	The bees returned to the hive, and they made honey.	**CLEAR**	They refers to the bees.
7	Jada thanked Priya because she shared the notes.	**UNCLEAR**	She could refer to Jada or Priya.
8	The violin was dusty, so Claire polished it.	**CLEAR**	It refers to the violin.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR**: The kite rose as it caught the wind.
- **UNCLEAR**: Tessa waved to Ruby when she reached the park.

Challenge: 2. Ava got home, and she called Ella.

For Part 2, accept an explanation that identifies one possible antecedent in a CLEAR item or two possible antecedents in an UNCLEAR item. In the challenge sample, she clearly refers to Ava.