

# Weather Words

Find how comparisons create meaning in a garden scene.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5a** "Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the water-and-glass-beads comparison in paragraph 1. Circle the thunder-and-giant and wind-and-puppy comparisons in paragraph 2. For each, mark one nearby detail that helps you interpret it. Number these three comparison-and-detail pairs 1, 2 and 3.

### Rain at the Garden

- ① On Saturday morning, Lena carried a bucket to the community garden after a night of rain. Water clung to the bean leaves like tiny glass beads. The paths were muddy, and her boots made soft sucking sounds. Near the gate, Mr. Ortiz said the garden was a sponge, holding rainwater instead of letting it race down the street.
- ② Later, dark clouds rolled over the rooftops. Thunder was a grumpy giant knocking at the sky. Three loud booms made the volunteers pause before they hurried to cover the seed trays. Lena's friend Maya pulled a tarp across the beds. "The wind is a wild puppy today," Maya said, as it tugged and snapped at the tarp. Everyone laughed, but they tied the corners tightly.
- ③ When the sun returned, the garden seemed to wake up. Puddles were silver mirrors between the rows, reflecting the blue sky. Mr. Ortiz checked the drain near the sidewalk, which carried extra water away. Lena understood why he had called the garden a sponge. Its soil had soaked up water, while the plants' roots held the ground in place.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What does the simile “like tiny glass beads” tell you about the water on the bean leaves?

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**2** Who describes the wind as “a wild puppy,” and what does that metaphor suggest about the wind?

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**3** What does “Thunder was a grumpy giant knocking at the sky” mean? Use a detail from the passage to support your answer.

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**4** What does Mr. Ortiz mean when he calls the garden “a sponge”? Cite the last paragraph detail that directly supports absorption, and explain why the drain is different.

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### 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about a weather event in a place you know. Include one simile and one metaphor. In the fourth sentence, explain what each comparison means.

#### **Create and interpret**

Write the four sentences requested above. Use concrete scene details so your comparisons make sense. Check that the fourth sentence explains both meanings.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the water-and-glass-beads comparison in paragraph 1. Circle the thunder-and-giant and wind-and-puppy comparisons in paragraph 2. For each, mark one nearby detail that helps you interpret it. Number these three comparison-and-detail pairs 1, 2 and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                                                | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does the simile “like tiny glass beads” tell you about the water on the bean leaves?                                                                               | <b>The water drops were small, round, and shiny.</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| 2 | Who describes the wind as “a wild puppy,” and what does that metaphor suggest about the wind?                                                                           | <b>Maya says it. The wind is active and pulls or snaps at things.</b>                                                                                                                        |
| 3 | What does “Thunder was a grumpy giant knocking at the sky” mean? Use a detail from the passage to support your answer.                                                  | <b>The comparison makes thunder sound loud and forceful, like a large person knocking. The three loud booms support that interpretation; the volunteers' pause shows their reaction.</b>     |
| 4 | What does Mr. Ortiz mean when he calls the garden “a sponge”? Cite the last paragraph detail that directly supports absorption, and explain why the drain is different. | <b>The garden takes in and holds rainwater. Its soil soaked up water, which directly supports the sponge comparison. The drain moves extra water away; that is drainage, not absorption.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

**Possible response:** Rain tapped the windows like impatient fingers. The playground was a lake after the storm. I watched raindrops ripple across the blacktop. The simile means the rain made quick tapping sounds, and the metaphor means the playground was covered with water.

**TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES**

Accept context-supported interpretations of the three named comparisons. For beads, clung to the bean leaves is one clue. Check exactly four original sentences with a simile and metaphor, both explained in sentence four. Drainage is not absorption.