River of Light

Study how precise details and comparisons create a vivid scene.

6.T.SS.2 "Craft: Interpret and use language to craft engaging texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases that create a strong image, and circle three verbs that make the lanterns or river seem active. These choices show how an author makes a scene engaging.

Lanterns on the River

1 When the sun slipped behind the hills, Mara carried her paper lantern to the riverbank beside the old stone bridge. Its blue sides glowed like a small, trapped moon. Around her, families unfolded blankets, and children chased the warm smell of grilled corn from a vendor's cart. The river waited, dark and smooth. Then the first lantern touched the water. It bobbed once, caught the current, and drifted away. One light became two. Two lights became a shining trail.

2 Mara knelt at the edge and lowered her lantern. Cold water brushed her fingertips. For a breath, the lantern spun in a tiny circle, as if it could not choose a path. A breeze snapped the flags along the bridge. Mara released the string. The lantern skimmed past reeds, winked beneath the bridge, and joined the growing stream of color. Red, gold, green, and blue trembled on the ripples. The river carried every wish forward toward the wide bay.

3 Soon, hundreds of lanterns floated beyond the bridge. From the hill, they looked like stars that had fallen gently onto the river. Mara watched hers become one bright dot among many. She could no longer see its blue paper or the small crease near its top. Still, she knew it was moving. The river carried every wish forward. As the lanterns traveled, their light painted the water with trembling paths, and the dark river no longer seemed empty to anyone standing quietly along its bank.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What comparison describes the lantern in the first paragraph? What picture does it create?

2. The author says the lantern "skimmed" past reeds. What does the word "skimmed" suggest about how the lantern moved?

3. Which clause is repeated in the passage? What idea does the repetition emphasize?

4. How does the list "Red, gold, green, and blue" make the second paragraph more engaging?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of four or five sentences about a small object traveling through a place. Use one simile, at least two precise verbs, and one sensory detail, then end with a sentence that gives the object's movement a larger meaning.

River of Light

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases that create a strong image, and circle three verbs that make the lanterns or river seem active. These choices show how an author makes a scene engaging. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What comparison describes the lantern in the first paragraph? What picture does it create?	**"like a small, trapped moon"; it makes the blue lantern seem small, glowing, and bright against the dark.**
2	The author says the lantern "skimmed" past reeds. What does the word "skimmed" suggest about how the lantern moved?	**It suggests that the lantern moved lightly and smoothly across the water.**
3	Which clause is repeated in the passage? What idea does the repetition emphasize?	**"The river carried every wish forward"; it emphasizes that the river keeps moving the lanterns and the wishes they represent.**
4	How does the list "Red, gold, green, and blue" make the second paragraph more engaging?	**The specific color words create a vivid picture of many colorful lanterns trembling on the water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dawn, my red kite tugged against its string like a fish fighting a current. It leaped above the playground, snapped in the wind, and dipped behind the tall maple. The cool air smelled of wet grass as I ran beneath it. When the kite rose again, it seemed to pull my worries into the wide, bright sky.

Accept different correctly identified sensory details, vivid verbs, and reasonable explanations of their effects. For the writing task, check for four or five sentences, a simile, two precise verbs, a sensory detail, and a final sentence that adds meaning to the object's movement.