Harbor in Three Lights

Notice how a poet uses sound, images, and structure to show one place changing.

6.T.T.4.b "Apply poetic techniques (e.g., stanzas, rhyme/rhyme scheme, imagery, figurative language, sound devices) to produce poetry and engage audiences. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each pair of rhyming end words and write rhyme-scheme letters beside the lines. Underline one image or figurative phrase in each stanza to notice how the poem helps you picture the harbor.

A Harbor Through the Day

(1) At dawn, the harbor wears a coat of misty gray.
Small fishing boats tap softly beside the old pier.
The sleepy town begins to stretch and slowly sway.
Salt wind whispers secrets in my listening ear.
A thick rope drums time against a tall mast of pine.
Heavy clouds tumble slowly over roofs of dark slate.
The water holds the first bright trembling line of shine.
I watch the waking waves unlock the harbor gate.

(2) By noon, the sun hangs like a brass coin in the sky.
Market bells clatter brightly near the crowded stone street.
Heat makes the wide blue horizon seem to fly.
Sandals slap a quick steady beat beneath bare feet.
A child sends folded paper boats along the stream.
Each tiny sail flashes once, then slips from sight.
Voices rise and fall like a changing dream.
The busy harbor hums with warm golden light.

③ At evening, bright lanterns bloom along the quiet quay.
Dark water slowly folds their colors into black.
One tall lighthouse eye begins its steady ray.
Far fishing engines murmur, then drift softly back.
Night gently wraps the wooden docks in velvet, cool and deep.
Stars prick the wide sky like pins of frozen fire.
The patient tide rocks every small boat into its sleep.
A lone gull calls once above a rusty coil of wire.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the three stanzas organize the changes in time at the harbor?

2. What is the rhyme scheme of the second stanza? Write the letters in order for all eight lines.

3. In the second stanza, what does the comparison "the sun hangs like a brass coin" help you picture?

4. Which two words begin with the same sound in the phrase "Far fishing engines murmur"? What sound device do they create?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an eight-line poem about a place at a specific time of day. Make two four-line stanzas with an ABAB rhyme scheme in each stanza, and include a vivid image, one simile or metaphor, and alliteration.

ANSWER KEY

Harbor in Three Lights

GRADE 6 · 6.T.T.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each pair of rhyming end words and write rhyme-scheme letters beside the lines. Underline one image or figurative phrase in each stanza to notice how the poem helps you picture the harbor. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the three stanzas organize the changes in time at the harbor?	**The first stanza shows dawn, the second shows noon, and the third shows evening.**
2	What is the rhyme scheme of the second stanza? Write the letters in order for all eight lines.	**ABABCDCD**
3	In the second stanza, what does the comparison "the sun hangs like a brass coin" help you picture?	**It helps the reader picture the sun as round, bright, and shining in the sky.**
4	Which two words begin with the same sound in the phrase "Far fishing engines murmur"? What sound device do they create?	**"Far" and "fishing" begin with the /f/ sound. They create alliteration.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Morning fog curls over the soccer field.
Bright cleats crunch across the frosty grass.
The goal stands like a shining silver shield.
Sharp whistles cut through clouds of silver glass.

By noon, our laughter lifts into the air.
Quick feet drum rhythms near the painted line.
The sun is a warm spotlight shining there.
Teammates trade bright passes, swift and fine.

Accept other accurate rhyme labels if students use a different starting letter consistently. For the poem, accept clear attempts at two stanzas, ABAB end rhymes, sensory imagery, figurative language, and alliteration.