Harbor Soundscape

Notice how sound and images shape a harbor poem.

7.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 Read the poem. In each stanza, box one pair of rhyming end words, underline one sensory image, and circle one example of figurative language or a sound device. These choices show how the poet builds a mood.

Harbor After Dusk

1 At dusk, I walk the harbor's wooden pier,
where gulls stitch white commas through the air.
The tide taps pilings with a patient beat,
and orange windows glow along the street.
A fishing boat hums, low and slow,
while ropes creak softly below.
Salt wind brushes my face like a feather,
and the town and sea breathe together.
My footsteps answer the dock's old song,
as shadows stretch dark and long.
The harbor holds its silver light,
then folds it gently into night.

(2) Beyond the breakwater, a small storm wakes.
Gray clouds gather like folded wings.
Rain drums a quick tattoo on the deck,
and each drop jumps from the rail.
The sea becomes a restless gray animal,
pacing and flashing its foamy mane.
I hear the buoy clang, clang, clang,
calling boats home through the rain.
Yet a lantern burns beside the door,
a steady star above the shore.
Its warm gold circle says, "Come near,"
and makes the dark seem less severe.

(3) By morning, the storm has slipped away.
Puddles mirror a rinsed blue sky.
The harbor smells of wet wood and pine,
while sunlight shakes on every line.
A child releases a paper boat,
watching it bob and float.
Gulls wheel above with bright, sharp cries,
and silver fish flash, then disappear.
I carry the night's wild music home,
its echoes tucked inside my coat.
The quiet water, wide and clear,
keeps one last secret in my ear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. List one pair of rhyming end words from the third stanza. How does the rhyme help the stanza sound?

2. Quote one phrase from the first stanza that creates a visual image. What do you picture?

3. In the second stanza, what figurative language is used in "The sea becomes a restless gray animal"? What does this comparison suggest about the sea?

4. What sound device is used in "clang, clang, clang"? How does it add to the storm scene?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-line poem in two three-line stanzas about a place during changing weather. In each stanza, use a pair of rhyming end words. Include one vivid sensory image, one simile or metaphor, and one sound device, such as repetition or onomatopoeia.

ANSWER KEY # Harbor Soundscape

GRADE 7 · 7.T.T.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the poem. In each stanza, box one pair of rhyming end words, underline one sensory image, and circle one example of figurative language or a sound device. These choices show how the poet builds a mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	List one pair of rhyming end words from the third stanza. How does the rhyme help the stanza sound?	**pine and line. The matching sounds create a smooth, musical flow.**
2	Quote one phrase from the first stanza that creates a visual image. What do you picture?	**"orange windows glow along the street." I picture warm, lit windows beside the harbor.**
3	In the second stanza, what figurative language is used in "The sea becomes a restless gray animal"? What does this comparison suggest about the sea?	**It is a metaphor. It suggests that the sea is wild, active, and unpredictable.**
4	What sound device is used in "clang, clang, clang"? How does it add to the storm scene?	**Repetition and onomatopoeia. The repeated word imitates the buoy's loud warning sound.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain stitches silver threads across the lane,
tap, tap, tap on the windowpane.
The maple shivers, red with flame.

Then clouds drift off, a curtain drawn,
and puddles hold the pale new dawn.
The street is a mirror, bright and clear.

Accept any clearly marked rhyming pairs, sensory images, figurative language, and sound devices supported by the poem. For the original poem, accept reasonable explanations of how these techniques create a calm, stormy, or reflective mood. For Part 3, also check six intentional verse lines grouped into two three-line stanzas; each stanza has a rhyming end-word pair. The model uses lane/windowpane and drawn/dawn, imagery, metaphor/personification and tap repetition/onomatopoeia. Student alternatives need not imitate the model's exact pattern.