Storm Sound Shift

Trace how a poem's craft changes its mood.

8.T.T.4.a "Analyze the development of poetic techniques used to present and design content, including stanzas, rhyme scheme, imagery, figurative language, and/or cacophony."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one vivid image in each stanza, circle two figurative phrases, and write letters beside the end words to show the rhyme pattern in each stanza. These marks will help you track how the poem changes from tension to calm.

After the Storm

1 At dusk, the river wears a bright coat of bronze light,
Windows blink slowly awake at the edge of day,
A lone bicycle bell rings thin in cooling night,
While pigeons settle, murmuring softly, near the quay.
The old bridge holds its breath above the darkening stream,
Its iron ribs glow warm red before the rain,
I walk beneath it, carrying a small paper dream,
And hear the far tracks hum low like a waiting train.

2 Clouds gather, bruised and heavy, over the silent empty square,
The streetlights shiver wildly in a thin silver haze,
Clang, clatter, crash, the loose metal signs snarl the air,
Then thunder stamps its heavy boots through narrow ways.
Rain needles rooftops, rattling loudly against every pane,
The swollen river, now a black horse, kicks the shore,
I grip my hood as wind pulls at its rein,
And every doorway roars for more, more, more.

③ By dawn, the storm has finally loosened its clenched fist,
Pale, quiet steam rises slowly from the shining street,
A small sparrow shakes bright drops from its feathered wrist,
And still puddles hold the pale clouds beneath my feet.
The old bridge no longer holds its deep breath alone,
Its rails sing softly, silver and clean after rain,
I leave my paper dream upon a smooth stone,
Then watch the river carry it quietly again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase "The old bridge holds its breath" suggest about the mood in stanza 1?

2. What is the rhyme scheme of the first four lines in stanza 2? Use the end words to support your answer.

3. Which words in stanza 2 create cacophony? What do those sounds help the reader hear?

4. How do the imagery and sound in stanza 3 develop a different mood from stanza 2? Use at least one detail from each stanza.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two three-line stanzas about a place changing from noisy to quiet. Make lines 1 and 3 of each stanza rhyme, use cacophonous sound words in the first stanza, and include at least one image and one figurative phrase. Label an image with I and a figurative phrase with F.

ANSWER KEY # Storm Sound Shift

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one vivid image in each stanza, circle two figurative phrases, and write letters beside the end words to show the rhyme pattern in each stanza. These marks will help you track how the poem changes from tension to calm. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase "The old bridge holds its breath" suggest about the mood in stanza 1?	**It suggests a tense, quiet mood, as if the bridge and speaker are waiting for the storm.**
2	What is the rhyme scheme of the first four lines in stanza 2? Use the end words to support your answer.	**ABAB. Square rhymes with air, and haze rhymes with ways.**
3	Which words in stanza 2 create cacophony? What do those sounds help the reader hear?	**"Clang, clatter, crash" creates cacophony. The sounds help the reader hear the harsh, noisy storm and rattling signs.**
4	How do the imagery and sound in stanza 3 develop a different mood from stanza 2? Use at least one detail from each stanza.	**Stanza 2 uses harsh sounds such as "Clang, clatter, crash" and "roars." Stanza 3 uses calm images and softer sounds, including "Pale, quiet steam" and rails that "sing softly," creating a peaceful mood after the storm.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Clang, clack, crash, the market shakes at noon.
Red apples shine like lanterns by the gate. [I]
The angry awning growls beneath the moon. [F]

At dusk, the carts roll home along the lane.
Blue shadows pool beside the closed cafe. [I]
The street hums low, a river after rain. [F]

Accept varied rhyme patterns if lines 1 and 3 in each stanza rhyme and the two stanzas clearly shift from noisy to quiet. The response should include sound words, sensory imagery, and a comparison, metaphor, or personification labeled as requested.