From Rain to River

Notice how a writer turns a personal moment into a poem.

6W4 "Create a poem, story, play, art work, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three ordinary details the speaker changes into images in the poem. Number them 1, 2, and 3 to see how real moments can inspire creative writing.

Borrowed Light

1 On the first day at my new school, I carried my lunch like a heavy book. The cafeteria roared with trays and chairs. I chose a seat beside the window, where rain stitched silver threads across the glass. My sandwich stayed wrapped. Then a girl with a purple backpack pointed to the empty chair across from me. "Is this seat saving itself?" she asked. I laughed, though my stomach still fluttered like a trapped moth.

2 She told me her name was Lina, and she hated rainy mornings because they made her shoes squeak. At recess, we tested every puddle near the basketball court. Our sneakers splashed dark stars onto the sidewalk. By afternoon, my lunch wrapper was gone, and my notebook held her phone number. The school hallways had not changed, but they seemed less like a maze. They became a river, carrying two small boats toward the same wide door.

3 That evening, I wrote the day into a poem, not because every moment was perfect, but because one open chair changed its shape. In my poem, the rain became thread, the puddles became stars, and the hallway became a river. Those images helped me show a feeling that was hard to name: fear can loosen when someone notices you. I ended with two boats moving forward together, still unsure of the current, but no longer traveling alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What personal experience does the speaker choose to turn into a poem?

2. Choose two real details from the day and explain what image each detail becomes in the poem.

3. What feeling does the writer want the poem to show without simply naming it?

4. Why does the writer end the poem with two boats moving together? Use a detail from the passage in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-line poem responding to a time someone helped you feel more welcome. Change at least two real details from the moment into images, and show the feeling without naming it directly.

From Rain to River

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three ordinary details the speaker changes into images in the poem. Number them 1, 2, and 3 to see how real moments can inspire creative writing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What personal experience does the speaker choose to turn into a poem?	**The speaker writes about the first day at a new school and meeting Lina, who invites the speaker to sit with her.**
2	Choose two real details from the day and explain what image each detail becomes in the poem.	**Possible pairs: rain becomes thread, puddles become stars, or hallways become a river.**
3	What feeling does the writer want the poem to show without simply naming it?	**The writer wants to show that fear or loneliness can lessen when someone notices and includes you.**
4	Why does the writer end the poem with two boats moving together? Use a detail from the passage in your answer.	**The two boats represent the speaker and Lina. They are still new to the school or uncertain, but the speaker is no longer alone because Lina became a friend.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My tray trembled beside the empty chair.
Jordan's orange pencil rolled toward my shoe.
He pushed it back, a tiny bridge across the floor.
His question opened like a window in a stuffy room.
Soon our crackers crunched like leaves under two bikes.
The long table became a path with room for me.

Accept supported answers that identify the experience, the real details, and their transformed images. For the poem, accept any six-line response based on a personal experience that uses at least two clear images and implies a feeling.