Moonlight Response

Create a poem that responds to a tale and explains its changes.

8W4 "Create a poem, story, play, art work, or other response to a text, author, theme or personal experience; explain divergences from the original text when appropriate."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details the poem keeps from the folktale. Circle each change the writer makes, then number the sentences that explain why the writer changed the tale.

A Poem Answers a Folktale

1. In the coastal folktale "Mara and the Moon Boat," Mara waits on a cliff after a storm separates her from her father's fishing crew. She sees a small boat drifting below, but the current carries it beyond reach. Moonlight spreads across the water and guides Mara along the shore to a sheltered cove. There she finds her father and the other fishers, whose damaged boat has landed safely. The tale shows Mara paying close attention instead of giving up.

2. After reading the tale, I wrote this response poem: "I am not the moon's path, / silver and certain. / I am Mara's listening ear, / turned toward the rocks. / A gull calls once. / I run, not because I know, / but because I choose to look." The poem keeps Mara, the storm's aftermath, moonlight, and the search near the shore. Instead of retelling every event, it speaks in Mara's imagined voice and focuses on her decision to act.

3. I changed the moonlight from a guide into something Mara questions, and I added a gull's call. These changes make the poem less certain than the folktale. In the tale, moonlight leads Mara to the cove where her father survived, while the boat itself is carried away. My poem does not name the cove or reveal the reunion. I wanted readers to feel the tense moment before Mara knows she will find her father. The response keeps the original theme of careful attention but explores uncertainty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name two details from the folktale that the poem keeps.

2. What is one change the writer makes in the poem?

3. How do the writer's changes affect the feeling of the poem?

4. Why does the writer leave out the cove and the reunion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a story, scene, or theme from a text you have read. Write a 6 to 8 line poem that responds to it and changes at least one element, such as the speaker, setting, event, or outcome. Then write 2 sentences explaining your change and how it shapes your response.

ANSWER KEY

Moonlight Response

GRADE 8 · 8W4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details the poem keeps from the folktale. Circle each change the writer makes, then number the sentences that explain why the writer changed the tale. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two details from the folktale that the poem keeps.	**Any two: Mara, the storm's aftermath, moonlight, or the search near the shore.**
2	What is one change the writer makes in the poem?	**The writer makes moonlight something Mara questions, adds a gull's call, uses Mara's imagined voice, or leaves out the cove and reunion.**
3	How do the writer's changes affect the feeling of the poem?	**They make the poem less certain and help readers feel the tense moment before Mara knows she will find her father.**
4	Why does the writer leave out the cove and the reunion?	**The writer wants readers to focus on Mara's uncertainty before she knows she will find her father.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am the hare, awake at dawn,
watching dust rise from the path.
I did not nap beneath the tree.
I slowed down to walk beside the tortoise.
We crossed the finish line together.
The forest learned a different lesson.

Explanation: I changed the ending so the hare learns cooperation instead of losing because of pride. This change makes the response about sharing success, not only avoiding overconfidence.

Accept any accurate details and explanations that are supported by the passage. For Part 3, accept a clear poem response with a recognizable connection to a text, at least one purposeful change, and two sentences that explain the change's effect.