Firefly Sound Hunt

Read a poem for rhyme, sound, and stanza structure.

3.9.B "explain rhyme scheme, sound devices, and structural elements such as stanzas in a variety of poems;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three stanzas 1, 2, and 3. Underline matching end-rhyme words and circle one group of words with the same beginning sound in each stanza, so you can see how the poem is built.

Firefly Evening

1 At dusk, the quiet pond turns gold and gray.
Soft breezes brush the bending reeds at night.
A frog sends round, clear notes that float far away.
While tiny fireflies blink their bright light.
Silver ripples slide beside the shore.
Little waves whisper, then they rest once more.
The moon climbs slowly, high above the trees.
Cool crickets call within the grass with ease.

2 Near the old dock, Mara holds her jar.
She watches glowing specks rise near the sky.
Each small flash twinkles like a distant star.
Then fades before it can fly by.
She does not shake the jar or chase the gleam.
She lets the bright bugs drift from leaf to leaf.
Above, the moon pours milk across the stream.
A quiet breeze makes every visit brief.

3 When morning paints the eastern clouds with rose.
Mara makes her way along the sandy lane.
She knows the fireflies rest where clover grows.
Until the evening calls them out again.
The pond will wait, with reeds that gently sway.
Her jar is empty, yet her heart feels light.
She saves the shining memory of their play.
Like little lamps that danced across the night.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How many stanzas are in the poem? How many lines are in each stanza?

2. Write the rhyme scheme for the first stanza.

3. In the line "Soft breezes brush the bending reeds at night," which beginning sound is repeated? What sound device is used?

4. How does the focus of stanza 3 differ from the focus of stanza 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two four-line stanzas about an outdoor place. Use an ABAB rhyme scheme in each stanza and include alliteration in at least one line, then write the rhyme scheme after each stanza. Leave a blank line between stanzas. Use extra paper if needed.

ANSWER KEY

Firefly Sound Hunt

GRADE 3 · TEKS 3.9.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three stanzas 1, 2, and 3. Underline matching end-rhyme words and circle one group of words with the same beginning sound in each stanza, so you can see how the poem is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How many stanzas are in the poem? How many lines are in each stanza?	**The poem has 3 stanzas. Each stanza has 8 lines.**
2	Write the rhyme scheme for the first stanza.	**ABABCCDD**
3	In the line "Soft breezes brush the bending reeds at night," which beginning sound is repeated? What sound device is used?	**The /b/ sound is repeated. The sound device is alliteration.**
4	How does the focus of stanza 3 differ from the focus of stanza 2?	**Stanza 2 shows Mara watching the fireflies at the pond. Stanza 3 shows her leaving in the morning and remembering them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sunny sparrows sing beside the gate.
I skip along the garden row.
My sister brings a picnic plate.
We watch the purple pansies grow.
Rhyme scheme: ABAB

A ladybug climbs a leafy tree.
The warm wind lifts my kite so high.
Its red wings sparkle bright and free.
White clouds drift slowly through the sky.
Rhyme scheme: ABAB

Accept correctly marked end-rhyme pairs and reasonable examples of alliteration, including "Silver ripples slide," "bright bugs," or "little lamps." For the writing task, accept any two four-line stanzas with ABAB end rhymes and at least one clear group of words sharing a beginning sound.