# Lanterns After Dark

Use story clues to understand comparisons.

**4.RL.4** "Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language (e.g., metaphors and similes)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle four comparisons in the story, then underline a nearby clue that helps you understand each one.

### The Lantern Test

1. By sunset, the schoolyard was full of paper lanterns. I held mine with both hands, afraid its thin sides would tear. Tomorrow was the town's winter parade, and tonight our class would test the lanterns outside. The wind tugged at my sleeves like a playful puppy. I stepped behind the brick wall and checked the knot on my lantern's handle again.

2. When Ms. Lee called us into a line, my stomach was a drum. I worried that everyone would see my shaky hands. Then Tessa's lantern slipped from its stick and landed in a puddle. She stared at the wet paper. I gave her the extra lantern I had made at home. She smiled, and we joined the line together.

3. We walked around the playground as the sky grew dark. Ahead of us, the line of glowing lanterns was a river of stars. Tessa held her new lantern high and whispered, 'We did it.' Ms. Lee said our lights would help the parade shine tomorrow. Her words were a warm blanket on that cold night. This time, I held my lantern without shaking.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the comparison to a playful puppy help you picture about the wind?

2. What does the narrator mean by 'my stomach was a drum'? Which nearby clue helps you tell?

3. What does 'a river of stars' describe? How does the comparison help you picture it?

4. What does 'Her words were a warm blanket' tell you about how Ms. Lee's words made the narrator feel?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a moment at a place other than a parade or schoolyard. Use an original simile or metaphor in the first sentence, then explain what your comparison means in the second.

ANSWER KEY

# Lanterns After Dark

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.4

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle four comparisons in the story, then underline a nearby clue that helps you understand each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does the comparison to a playful puppy help you picture about the wind? | **The wind pulled at the narrator's sleeves in quick, gentle tugs.** |
| 2 | What does the narrator mean by 'my stomach was a drum'? Which nearby clue helps you tell? | **The narrator felt nervous. The narrator worried that others would see their shaky hands.** |
| 3 | What does 'a river of stars' describe? How does the comparison help you picture it? | **It describes the long line of glowing lanterns, which looked like many bright points flowing across the playground.** |
| 4 | What does 'Her words were a warm blanket' tell you about how Ms. Lee's words made the narrator feel? | **Her words made the narrator feel comforted and more confident.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the beach, the waves were a row of blue horses racing toward my feet. Their rolling crests rushed in so quickly that I jumped back.

Accept answers that explain what each comparison means in the story, not just what its words mean literally. For Part 3, look for an original comparison and a second sentence that makes its meaning clear.