A Kite Takes Flight

Notice how word choices bring a small event to life.

6.W.3.d "Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, figurative and sensory language to convey experiences and events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two precise action verbs, underline one detail you can sense, and write 1 beside a comparison that helps you picture the kite.

The Patched Kite

1 The kite dipped just as the wind changed. One moment, its yellow tail snapped above the soccer field; the next, the string went slack in my fingers. The kite slid into the chain-link fence behind the goal. I jogged toward it, my sneakers squelching on the damp grass. Across the field, my brother called, "Don't pull!" I stopped with my hand on the string. The thin paper wing fluttered against the wire like a trapped moth, and I could see one corner beginning to tear.

2 At the fence, I smelled rain in the soil and the sharp scent of cut grass. The kite's bamboo frame was wedged between two metal diamonds. Every gust tugged at the paper, making it rasp against the wire. I loosened the string instead of yanking it. My brother held the loose line while I slipped two fingers through the fence and lifted the frame. A strip of yellow tissue stayed behind, trembling on a bent wire, but the kite came free.

3 We carried the kite to the bench beneath the maple tree. My brother pulled a roll of clear tape from his backpack, left over from fixing the tail that morning. I pressed the torn corner flat while he laid a narrow strip of tape over it. When we returned to the open field, the wind filled the paper wing with a soft thrum. The kite climbed, uneven at first, then steady. Above us, its patched corner flashed in the gray light like a tiny window.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does comparing the kite's wing to a trapped moth help you picture?

2. How does the word “rasp” help explain why the narrator loosens the string instead of pulling it?

3. What does the strip of yellow tissue left on the wire tell you about the rescue?

4. How do “soft thrum” and “uneven at first, then steady” help you experience the kite's second flight?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write five or six sentences about a time you or an imagined character fixed something small. Include two precise action verbs, two sensory details, and one comparison that helps the reader picture or hear the moment.

ANSWER KEY

A Kite Takes Flight

GRADE 6 · 6.W.3.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two precise action verbs, underline one detail you can sense, and write 1 beside a comparison that helps you picture the kite. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does comparing the kite's wing to a trapped moth help you picture?	**The wing flutters against the fence but cannot get free.**
2	How does the word “rasp” help explain why the narrator loosens the string instead of pulling it?	**It suggests the paper is scraping against the wire, so pulling could tear it further.**
3	What does the strip of yellow tissue left on the wire tell you about the rescue?	**The kite came free, but a small piece tore off and remained on the fence.**
4	How do “soft thrum” and “uneven at first, then steady” help you experience the kite's second flight?	**“Soft thrum” suggests the sound of wind vibrating the paper. “Uneven at first, then steady” shows the patched kite wobbling before it flies smoothly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The lid of my lunch box snapped off just before the bus arrived. I crouched on the cold sidewalk and felt a grain of sand grind under my knee. One tiny hinge pin had slipped out, and it shone like a silver seed beside my shoe. I nudged the pin into place with my thumbnail while the bus engine rumbled at the curb. The lid clicked shut, sharp as a tap on glass. I wiped the dust from the box and climbed aboard.

For the marking job, accept precise verbs such as “snapped,” “squelching,” “wedged,” or “tugged,” any detail tied to a sense, and either kite comparison. For the writing task, check for five or six sentences with the requested language choices woven into the event.