Night Words Work

Notice how word choices build a scene and mood.

3.10.D "describe how the author's use of imagery, literal and figurative language such as simile, and sound devices such as onomatopoeia achieves specific purposes;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that help you see, hear, or feel the backyard. Circle each figurative comparison, and put a number next to each sound word or sound phrase to show how these choices create the mood.

Fireflies at Dusk

1. At dusk, Maya carried a paper lantern to the backyard. The sky turned purple above the oak tree, and cool grass brushed her bare feet. She placed the lantern beside a flat stone and waited for the first firefly to appear. A robin gave one last chirp from the fence. Then the yard grew still.

2. A firefly floated near the tomatoes. Its tiny light blinked like a secret star. Maya held her breath and watched more fireflies rise from the grass. They twinkled over the yard, a small golden river in the dark. "Buzz, buzz," hummed a beetle near her shoe. Maya smiled but did not move to keep the moment quiet.

3. Soon, clouds covered the moon. The backyard became a blanket of shadows, and Maya felt a little nervous. Then her lantern glowed on the stone, making a warm circle of light. The fireflies drifted near it, and the dark yard no longer seemed scary. Maya walked inside, carrying the quiet evening with her thoughts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find two literal details from the first paragraph that help you picture or feel the backyard. What do they help you imagine?

2. What two things are compared in "Its tiny light blinked like a secret star"? What is the purpose of this simile?

3. What sound does "Buzz, buzz" copy? How does this sound phrase help the scene?

4. How does the phrase "a blanket of shadows" affect the mood? How does the lantern change that mood?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about an evening place you know or imagine. Include vivid imagery, a simile, and an onomatopoeia, and use them to create a calm, excited, or nervous feeling.

ANSWER KEY

Night Words Work

GRADE 3 · TEKS 3.10.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that help you see, hear, or feel the backyard. Circle each figurative comparison, and put a number next to each sound word or sound phrase to show how these choices create the mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find two literal details from the first paragraph that help you picture or feel the backyard. What do they help you imagine?	**Examples include "the sky turned purple," "cool grass brushed her bare feet," and "a robin gave one last chirp." These details help the reader picture and feel a quiet backyard at dusk.**
2	What two things are compared in "Its tiny light blinked like a secret star"? What is the purpose of this simile?	**The firefly's light is compared to a secret star. The simile makes the light seem tiny, bright, and special.**
3	What sound does "Buzz, buzz" copy? How does this sound phrase help the scene?	**It copies the sound of a beetle. It helps the backyard scene seem real and alive while Maya waits quietly.**
4	How does the phrase "a blanket of shadows" affect the mood? How does the lantern change that mood?	**The phrase makes the darkness seem as if it covers the whole yard, creating a nervous mood. The lantern's warm circle of light makes the yard feel safer and less scary.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The cold wind slipped through the trees. The leaves danced like tiny flags, and rustle, rustle, they tapped the path. These details make the woods feel lively and a little mysterious.

Accept literal sensory details that clearly describe the scene, plus reasonable explanations of their effects. For the writing task, look for three sentences with imagery, a simile, an onomatopoeia, and a clear intended feeling.