

Words That Paint

Notice how an author's word choices shape a scene.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sensory details. Circle each simile or metaphor, then put an A beside one example of alliteration and a V beside one example of assonance. These choices help create pictures, sounds, and feelings.

Morning on the Hill

- ① At dawn, Maya climbed the hill behind her apartment. Fog rested in the streets below, soft as a blanket. Wet grass brushed her boots, and the air smelled like pine needles. In the east, the sun slid over the roofs, painting windows with gold. Maya held her breath as the quiet town began to wake.
- ② Then a flock of sparrows burst from a maple tree. Their wings made a quick whirr, and they swept through the fog like tiny boats on a silver sea. Maya heard the bright, brisk birds call to one another. The hill was a lookout tower, she thought, high above the sleepy streets. She watched until the flock became small dark dots.
- ③ A breeze moved across the grass, making it ripple in long green waves. Maya smiled. The morning was a new page, ready for plans and surprises. Soon, buses would rumble, doors would bang, and people would hurry along the sidewalks. For one more minute, Maya listened to the low, slow wind and felt calm inside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which words in the first paragraph help you imagine what Maya smells? What do those words help you picture?

2 Which literal detail tells what Maya really does at the beginning? How does this detail help the scene?

3 The sparrows move “like tiny boats on a silver sea.” What two things does this simile compare? What does it help readers imagine?

4 The author writes “bright, brisk birds” and “low, slow wind.” What sound device is used in each phrase, and what mood does each phrase help create?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 4 sentences about arriving at a place you know. Include a literal detail, a simile or metaphor, and alliteration or assonance, plus sensory words. In the fourth sentence, explain whether you wanted readers to feel calm or excited and how one word choice helps.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sensory details. Circle each simile or metaphor, then put an A beside one example of alliteration and a V beside one example of assonance. These choices help create pictures, sounds, and feelings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words in the first paragraph help you imagine what Maya smells? What do those words help you picture?	"the air smelled like pine needles." These words help readers picture a fresh, outdoor hill at dawn.
2	Which literal detail tells what Maya really does at the beginning? How does this detail help the scene?	"Maya climbed the hill behind her apartment." It tells where she is and what she does, making the scene believable.
3	The sparrows move "like tiny boats on a silver sea." What two things does this simile compare? What does it help readers imagine?	It compares the sparrows to tiny boats moving through fog. It helps readers imagine the birds gliding through the pale fog.
4	The author writes "bright, brisk birds" and "low, slow wind." What sound device is used in each phrase, and what mood does each phrase help create?	"bright, brisk birds" uses alliteration and creates a lively, quick feeling. "low, slow wind" uses assonance and creates a calm, quiet feeling.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I walked into the library after school. Warm light pooled on the carpet, and books smelled dusty and old. Quiet, quick footsteps tapped past the tall shelves. I wanted readers to feel calm, so I used "warm" to make the library seem cozy.

Accept accurate explanations of how a language choice helps readers picture the scene, hear its sounds, or feel a mood. For Part 3, check for four sentences, a literal detail, figurative language, a sound device, sensory language, and a clear purpose statement.