

Pond Pictures

Read a poem and trace its picture-making language.

4.9.B “explain figurative language such as simile, metaphor, and personification that the poet uses to create images;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each simile, circle each metaphor, and number each example of personification. Use your marks to notice how the poet helps you picture the pond at night.

Night at the Pond

- ① At sunset, Mara walked to the pond behind her house. The water was a purple mirror, holding the last light of day. Reeds stood along the shore like thin paintbrushes. A frog plopped from a rock, and rings spread across the pond. Mara watched the sky change from gold to deep blue above the quiet trees.
- ② Then the evening breeze whispered through the cattails and tapped Mara's sleeve. She pulled her sweater close. Fireflies blinked like tiny lanterns over the grass. Each flash appeared, vanished, and appeared again. The pond seemed to listen as crickets began their song. Mara felt as if the whole shore had become a secret nighttime room.
- ③ A silver moon rose above the trees. Its path lay across the pond like a road made of light. Mara's worries were stones in her pocket, but the quiet scene made them feel smaller. When she headed home, the stars winked behind her. The pond kept its moonlit picture until the first birds sang softly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the metaphor “The water was a purple mirror” mean? What image does it create?

2 How do the similes about the reeds and the fireflies help you picture the shore?

3 Choose one example of personification from the poem. What nonhuman thing acts like a person, and what image does it create?

4 What does the metaphor “Mara's worries were stones in her pocket” suggest? How does the pond scene affect her feelings?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-line poem about an outdoor place. Include one simile, one metaphor, and one personification, then label each one S, M, or P.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each simile, circle each metaphor, and number each example of personification. Use your marks to notice how the poet helps you picture the pond at night. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the metaphor “The water was a purple mirror” mean? What image does it create?	It means the smooth water reflected the purple evening sky. It creates an image of bright color shining on the pond.
2	How do the similes about the reeds and the fireflies help you picture the shore?	The reeds look thin like paintbrushes, and the fireflies look like tiny lanterns glowing over the grass.
3	Choose one example of personification from the poem. What nonhuman thing acts like a person, and what image does it create?	The evening breeze “whispered” and “tapped” Mara’s sleeve. This makes the wind seem gentle and active near her.
4	What does the metaphor “Mara’s worries were stones in her pocket” suggest? How does the pond scene affect her feelings?	Her worries feel heavy, like stones she carries. The quiet pond makes the worries feel smaller.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The meadow was a green blanket. (M) Bees buzzed like tiny engines. (S) The breeze waved at the grass. (P) I sat on a rock and watched the clouds.

Accept accurate explanations that connect each figurative phrase to a picture, sound, feeling, or action in the poem. For the original poem, accept different outdoor settings if the student includes and correctly labels a simile, metaphor, and personification.