

Weather With a Voice

Trace how figurative language shapes a scene and its mood.

6.9.D "describe how the author's use of figurative language such as metaphor and personification achieves specific purposes;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each metaphor and circle each example of personification. In the margin, write a purpose word, such as setting, tension, sound, or mood, beside each one.

Storm at the Marsh

- ① At sunset, Maya stepped onto the boardwalk that crossed the marsh behind her apartment. The water lay still between tall reeds, and the last orange light spread across it. Then the wind woke. It whispered through the grass and tugged at Maya's hood. She held the rail and listened as the marsh began its evening song. A heron lifted from the darkening edge, its wings making slow, wide shadows over the narrow path ahead of the silent girl below.
- ② Maya had come outside to check a small rain gauge near the cattails, but the approaching clouds pulled her attention upward. Above the roofs, the sky was a bruised blanket, heavy and low. A faint rumble rolled across the neighborhood. The clouds were a crowd at a closed door, pressing closer while she hurried along the boards. Maya knew a storm was coming, yet the sky's dark blanket made the ordinary path feel hidden and uneasy.
- ③ Rain began with a single drop on Maya's hand. Then the boardwalk became a drum, and thousands of drops tapped a fast beat beneath her boots. The reeds bowed and shivered, while the wind chased loose leaves through the puddles. Maya reached the rain gauge, emptied it quickly, and ran home. Behind her, the storm drummed on the marsh, turning the familiar place into a wild, noisy world for one long minute before fading into the distance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the metaphor “the sky was a bruised blanket” suggest about the sky? How does it affect the mood?

2 How does the author personify the wind in paragraph 1? What purpose does this personification serve?

3 What does the metaphor “the boardwalk became a drum” help you imagine?

4 How do the personified wind and storm in paragraph 3 help show that the marsh has changed?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a familiar outdoor place during a weather change. Include one metaphor and one example of personification, then explain in the third sentence how your figurative language creates a mood.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each metaphor and circle each example of personification. In the margin, write a purpose word, such as setting, tension, sound, or mood, beside each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the metaphor “the sky was a bruised blanket” suggest about the sky? How does it affect the mood?	It suggests the sky is dark, low, and heavy with storm clouds. It creates an uneasy, threatening mood.
2	How does the author personify the wind in paragraph 1? What purpose does this personification serve?	The wind “woke,” “whispered,” and “tugged” at Maya’s hood. This makes the marsh seem active and builds anticipation for the storm.
3	What does the metaphor “the boardwalk became a drum” help you imagine?	It helps the reader imagine the loud, fast sound of many raindrops hitting the boardwalk.
4	How do the personified wind and storm in paragraph 3 help show that the marsh has changed?	The wind “chased” leaves and the storm “drummed” on the marsh. These actions make the familiar marsh seem wild, active, and noisy.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dusk, the playground was an empty stage beneath the gray sky. The wind tugged at the swings and sent dry leaves racing past the slide. These comparisons make the playground feel lonely and restless before the rain.

Accept metaphors and personification that students correctly identify and connect to a specific purpose, such as creating mood, building tension, showing sound, or making the setting seem alive. For Part 3, accept varied weather scenes if the response has exactly three sentences, includes both required techniques, and explains the intended mood.