

Creek in Care

Track an extended metaphor and explain its purpose.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that compare Willow Creek to a patient, then number three cleanup actions that fit the comparison. Use your marks to trace how the comparison develops.

Willow Creek's Recovery

- ① At dawn, Willow Creek lay under a gray film of trash and oil. It seemed to hold its breath beneath the bridge. Along its banks, volunteers filled bags with bottles, while a city worker tested the water. For years, rain had carried fertilizer, soap, and loose soil into the creek. Fish had become scarce, and thick algae spread across slow pools. The cleanup crew arrived with nets, gloves, and a plan to help the creek begin again.
- ② The crew treated the waterway like a patient in a clinic. Nets became careful hands removing what clogged its throat. Test tubes offered a diagnosis, showing which pollutants had entered its body. Workers planted native grasses as if placing a cool bandage along raw banks. Each task suggested that quick cleaning alone would not heal the creek. The workers needed to find the causes of its illness and protect it from new harm.
- ③ Over the next months, the creek changed slowly. Clearer water moved over stones, and insects returned near the grasses. The volunteers checked storm drains and asked neighbors to use less fertilizer. At a town meeting, students displayed maps of runoff routes and proposed more rain gardens. The creek did not leap back to health in a single day. Its recovery depended on repeated care, careful choices, and people noticing what flowed toward it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the extended metaphor in the passage? Give two details that develop it.

2 How does the phrase “careful hands removing what clogged its throat” change the way the reader sees the volunteers’ work?

3 Why does the author describe test tubes as offering “a diagnosis” instead of simply saying that workers tested the water?

4 How do the patient comparisons help explain why removing trash is only one part of restoring Willow Creek?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that extend a metaphor comparing a damaged natural place to something that needs care. In the first two sentences, include at least two connected comparison details. In the third sentence, explain what your metaphor helps the reader understand.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that compare Willow Creek to a patient, then number three cleanup actions that fit the comparison. Use your marks to trace how the comparison develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the extended metaphor in the passage? Give two details that develop it.	The creek is compared to a patient. Details include its “throat” being clogged, pollutants entering its “body,” test tubes giving a diagnosis, and grasses acting like a bandage.
2	How does the phrase “careful hands removing what clogged its throat” change the way the reader sees the volunteers’ work?	It makes the volunteers seem gentle and skilled, as if they are helping a living thing breathe and recover.
3	Why does the author describe test tubes as offering “a diagnosis” instead of simply saying that workers tested the water?	The word “diagnosis” extends the patient metaphor and emphasizes that workers must identify the source of the creek’s problem.
4	How do the patient comparisons help explain why removing trash is only one part of restoring Willow Creek?	The comparisons present pollution as an illness with causes, so the creek needs both treatment and protection from further harm.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The neglected school garden was a tired athlete after a long race. Its dry soil needed a drink, and bent stems waited for a steady hand to guide them upright. This comparison helps the reader understand that regular water and care can restore the garden.

Accept quoted or accurately paraphrased evidence for the patient metaphor. For the open task, accept varied natural settings and comparisons if the details consistently develop one metaphor and the final sentence states a reasonable purpose.