

Light Through Weather

Trace how a poem's stanzas, sounds, and images develop meaning.

10.RL.2.A "Explain the overall structure of a poem, including how each successive part builds on earlier sections and how rhyme, rhythm, sound, and imagery convey a message and elicit a reader's emotions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three stanzas 1 through 3. Underline one image in each stanza, circle the end words in three rhyming pairs, and draw arrows between stanzas to show how the speaker's situation changes.

Keeper's Wheel

- ① At dusk, I climb the lighthouse stair, with salt wind tugging at my hair. Below, the harbor narrows to a thread; boats knock softly, hull against hull, in bed. The lantern wakes, a steady golden eye, and sends its patient wheel across the sky. I hear the gulls cry, high and thin, then watch the first hard clouds move in. Still, from the shore, warm windows gleam; they hold the sea inside a dream. I turn the lens, slow, bright, and clear, while evening gathers, near and near.
- ② By midnight, rain drums hard on iron glass, and black waves rise, break, vanish, pass. The beam cuts foam, but fog folds tight; each white flash is swallowed by the night. I grip the rail. The tower groans. Wind worries every bolt and stone. Far out, one horn calls low, then calls again; its lonely note is lost in rain. Yet I keep turning, round by round, a small bright answer to that sound. The sea leaps up, a claw of white; I send the wheel through gust and night.
- ③ Near dawn, the storm loosens its knotted fist. Rain thins to mist along the eastern rim. The horn falls silent. In the quiet air, the harbor opens, pale and bare. Then one small boat appears below, its deck lamp blinking, slow, slow, slow. My wheel still circles, though the clouds have torn; light meets the water, gold on gray. The windows on the shore shine wide, and gulls return on the turning tide. I leave the lantern burning clear, not to defeat the sea, but guide it near.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How does stanza 1 establish the setting and the speaker's role before the conflict begins?

2 How does stanza 2 build on stanza 1?

3 How do the repeated words "round by round" and the rhyme of "round" and "sound" affect the rhythm and mood of stanza 2?

4 How does the image of the beam as "a small bright answer" help convey the poem's message and emotion?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a six-line poem in three two-line stanzas about a person facing a challenge. Use at least two end-rhyme pairs, one repeated word or sound, and one vivid image, then write two sentences explaining how the later stanzas build on the first and how a sound or image shapes the poem's message and mood.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the three stanzas 1 through 3. Underline one image in each stanza, circle the end words in three rhyming pairs, and draw arrows between stanzas to show how the speaker's situation changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does stanza 1 establish the setting and the speaker's role before the conflict begins?	It places the speaker at a lighthouse at dusk, turning its lens above a harbor. The approaching hard clouds foreshadow trouble.
2	How does stanza 2 build on stanza 1?	The approaching storm becomes a dangerous midnight storm. The speaker continues turning the lighthouse lens while wind, fog, waves, and a distant horn increase the tension.
3	How do the repeated words "round by round" and the rhyme of "round" and "sound" affect the rhythm and mood of stanza 2?	They create a circular, steady rhythm that emphasizes the speaker's persistence during the storm and adds determination to the tense mood.
4	How does the image of the beam as "a small bright answer" help convey the poem's message and emotion?	It presents the lighthouse beam as a response to the lost horn and surrounding danger. The image suggests that even a small act of guidance can offer hope.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On the bridge, Nia grips a fraying rope, Below, the floodwater shoves at her hope. Step, step, she crosses through the biting rain, Step, step, her breath becomes a steady chain. At last, she ties the far gate tight, and dawn spills copper over the night. The second stanza builds the danger by showing Nia moving across the bridge, while the third shows her action protecting others and brings relief. The repeated "Step, step" creates a determined rhythm, and the copper dawn makes the ending feel hopeful.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately trace the movement from watchful preparation, to storm danger, to guided relief. For the open task, accept varied rhyme patterns and sound devices if the student clearly explains how structure and language support a message and mood.