Words in the Woods

Use story clues to discuss word and phrase meanings.

3.RV.1.B "Discuss meanings of complex words and phrases acquired through conversations and literature."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that may have more than one meaning or a special meaning in the story. Circle the nearby words that help you figure out each meaning.

The Bridge at Dusk

1. After dinner, Maya heard a faint yelp near the old footbridge. She grabbed a flashlight and asked her neighbor Mr. Chen to come along. The woods were hushed, as if the trees were holding their breath. Maya felt reluctant to step onto the creaky bridge, but Mr. Chen tested each board and said it was sturdy.

2. On the far bank, a small dog was tangled in a patch of thorny vines. Its leash had caught under a fallen branch. Mr. Chen spoke in a calm voice while Maya shone the light. The dog stopped squirming. Together, they worked patiently until the leash came loose. Maya's worry began to melt away when the dog wagged its tail.

3. Back at the bridge, Maya wrapped the dog in her jacket. A silver tag on its collar showed an address nearby. Soon, a family rushed from a yellow house and called the dog Pepper. Their faces brightened when Pepper bounded toward them. Maya walked home beneath the stars. Although her shoes were muddy, she felt proud of their brave little adventure.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does hushed mean in the first paragraph? Which words help you know?

2. What does reluctant mean in the first paragraph?

3. In the second paragraph, what does Maya's worry began to melt away mean?

4. What does bounded toward them mean in the third paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a place you know. Use one phrase with a special meaning in the first two sentences, then explain what the phrase means in the third sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Words in the Woods

GRADE 3 · 3.RV.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that may have more than one meaning or a special meaning in the story. Circle the nearby words that help you figure out each meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does hushed mean in the first paragraph? Which words help you know?	**Hushed means very quiet. The words "holding their breath" help show that the woods were quiet and still.**
2	What does reluctant mean in the first paragraph?	**Reluctant means not wanting to do something or feeling unsure about doing it.**
3	In the second paragraph, what does Maya's worry began to melt away mean?	**It means Maya's worry slowly went away.**
4	What does bounded toward them mean in the third paragraph?	**It means Pepper ran or jumped quickly and happily toward the family.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At recess, the playground buzzed like a beehive as children ran and talked. I stood in a long line for the swings. The phrase means the playground was busy and noisy, and the running and talking are clues.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by nearby story details. For Part 3, accept any clear special-meaning phrase, a context that gives clues, and an accurate explanation.