Moonlit Map Mystery

Use story clues to discuss words and phrases with deeper meanings.

4.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 whose meanings you can figure out from nearby clues. Circle each quoted message, so you can use passage clues to discuss what its words and phrases mean.

The Moonlit Map

1. On the evening before the town festival, Maya helped her grandfather tidy his boat shed. A fierce wind rattled the loose windowpanes and scattered papers across the floor. Under a coil of rope, Maya found a faded map with a note: "Follow the silver path when the moon is high." Her grandfather smiled but would not explain the mysterious message.

2. At dusk, Maya and her grandfather walked to the riverbank. The map showed a narrow trail beside the water. When the moon rose, its light made a bright stripe on the river. "That must be the silver path," Maya said. They followed the gleaming reflection until they reached an old dock. There, a small metal box rested beneath a weathered plank.

3. Inside the box was a brass compass and another note. It said, "A true guide points home, even after a winding journey." Maya first thought the note meant the compass would lead them through every street. Then she understood that her grandfather had planned the search to teach her something. The compass pointed north, but her grandfather's patient advice also helped her find her way when she felt uncertain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does fierce mean in the phrase "a fierce wind"? Which details help you understand it?

2. What does the phrase "silver path" mean in the story?

3. What does weathered mean when it describes the plank?

4. What does the message "A true guide points home" mean in this story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a challenge. Use one complex word and one phrase that does not mean exactly what its words say. Include clues that show what the word and phrase mean.

ANSWER KEY

Moonlit Map Mystery

GRADE 4 · 4.RV.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words whose meanings you can figure out from nearby clues. Circle each quoted message, so you can use passage clues to discuss what its words and phrases mean. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does fierce mean in the phrase "a fierce wind"? Which details help you understand it?	**Fierce means strong or powerful. The wind rattled windowpanes and scattered papers.**
2	What does the phrase "silver path" mean in the story?	**It means the bright stripe of moonlight reflected on the river.**
3	What does weathered mean when it describes the plank?	**Weathered means old and worn from being outside for a long time.**
4	What does the message "A true guide points home" mean in this story?	**A true guide helps someone find the right way. The compass gives directions, and Grandfather's advice helps Maya make decisions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the treacherous hike, the slippery rocks made each step dangerous. Dad said, "Slow and steady wins the race," so we moved carefully instead of rushing.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by details in the passage. For Part 3, accept varied complex words and phrases if the surrounding context clearly shows each meaning.