

Lantern in Rain

Notice how an author's word choices shape a story.

5.RL.2.B "Analyze the author's use of language (e.g., synonyms, figurative language, sensory words, dialogue, dialect) and their impact on understanding characters, setting, and plot events."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that help you see, hear, smell, or feel the scene, including comparisons. Circle dialogue, then write S, C, or P beside each mark to show whether it helps you understand the setting, a character, or the plot.

The Missing Lantern

- ① Rain tapped the tin roof of the harbor shed as Lena sorted through her grandfather's fishing gear. The room smelled of salt, wet rope, and old wood. Outside, gray waves slapped the dock. "The storm took the lantern from my boat," Grandfather said quietly. Lena pictured the boat rocking alone in the dark and felt a cold knot tighten in her stomach.
- ② She hurried to the workshop, where tools gleamed like silver fish along the wall. Lena rummaged through drawers, then searched beneath a canvas tarp. "Not here," she muttered. A gust shoved the door open, and a yellow flash blinked from a crate near the window. Lena grabbed the lantern, but its glass was cracked and muddy.
- ③ Grandfather entered just as Lena wrapped the lantern in her jacket. His worried face softened. "You found it," he said, his voice warm as the stove. Together, they carried it to the boat. Rain still drummed overhead, but Lena no longer heard a threat. She heard a steady beat, leading them down the dock toward the waiting waves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which sensory details create the harbor setting in the first paragraph? Explain the feeling they create.

- 2 What does the phrase “a cold knot tighten in her stomach” suggest about Lena? How does this figurative language help you understand her character?

- 3 How does Grandfather’s dialogue, “The storm took the lantern from my boat,” affect the plot?

- 4 The author says Lena “rummaged” and later “grabbed” the lantern. What do these words show about her actions and the plot?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write four sentences about a character finding an important item during stormy weather. Include a sensory detail, a comparison using like or as, and one line of dialogue, then explain in the fourth sentence how one language choice helps readers understand the setting, character, or plot.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that help you see, hear, smell, or feel the scene, including comparisons. Circle dialogue, then write S, C, or P beside each mark to show whether it helps you understand the setting, a character, or the plot. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sensory details create the harbor setting in the first paragraph? Explain the feeling they create.	Details such as “rain tapped,” “smelled of salt, wet rope, and old wood,” and “gray waves slapped the dock” create a wet, stormy harbor that feels uneasy.
2	What does the phrase “a cold knot tighten in her stomach” suggest about Lena? How does this figurative language help you understand her character?	It suggests that Lena feels worried or afraid. The figurative language shows that she cares about her grandfather and the boat.
3	How does Grandfather’s dialogue, “The storm took the lantern from my boat,” affect the plot?	It introduces the problem of the missing lantern and gives Lena a reason to search for it.
4	The author says Lena “rummaged” and later “grabbed” the lantern. What do these words show about her actions and the plot?	“Rummaged” shows that Lena searches through things quickly, and “grabbed” shows that she takes the lantern fast when she finds it. These words make her search feel urgent and move the plot toward solving the problem.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wind whistled through the empty playground, and wet leaves stuck to Omar’s shoes. “My sister’s map must be here,” he called, searching beneath the slide. A red corner flashed like a tiny flag beside the fence, and Omar scooped up the map. The whistling wind makes the setting feel urgent and explains why Omar searches quickly.

Accept reasonable quoted sensory details, figurative language, and dialogue when students explain a supported effect on setting, character, or plot. For the open response, accept varied original situations if all required language choices and the fourth-sentence explanation are present.