Sounds After Rain

Notice how sound patterns shape a poem's mood.

6.RL.2.A "Describe the poetic elements in prose and poetry (e.g., rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) and their intended impact on the reader."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline repeated words or phrases, circle words that imitate sounds, number each pair of rhyming end words, and put a star beside alliteration. Use your marks to explain how the sound choices shape the mood.

Maya's Rain Poem

1 At dusk, Maya sat on the apartment steps while rain tapped the railings. Across the street, the city bus hissed, then rolled away. Her little brother, Leo, splashed through a puddle and shouted, "Listen, listen!" Maya listened. Drip, drip, drip, went the gutter. The sounds seemed to make a beat. She opened her notebook, hoping to turn the wet evening into a poem for the school library's open-mic lunch on Friday, when students shared short writing between bites of sandwiches.

2 She wrote four short lines: "Rain on the roof, soft and slow. Rain in the street, where small streams flow. Tap, tap, tap, the windows speak. The moon peeks out, pale on its cheek." Maya read the lines aloud, pausing after each one. Her voice rose and fell with the words. Leo stood beside her, tapping one finger on the notebook cover. Outside, water slid from the fire escape in thin silver threads. Maya crossed out an adjective, then read the four lines again. This time, she imagined a listener standing near the window, hearing the evening settle around them.

3 The next day, Maya performed at lunch. When she reached "Tap, tap, tap," several students tapped their tables in time. At the ends of the first two lines, a few listeners nodded. Maya noticed that the poem made the rainy evening feel calm, not gloomy. Afterward, Leo said the tapping words sounded like real rain. Maya kept the notebook open as she walked home past quiet, shining puddles on the sidewalk while buses rolled along the wet street.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which word does Leo repeat in the first paragraph? How does that repetition direct the reader's attention?

2. Which two end words rhyme in the first two lines of Maya's poem? How does the rhyme support the poem's calm mood?

3. Find the alliteration in the last line of the poem. What sound is repeated, and what effect does it create?

4. How do the repeated words “Tap, tap, tap” work as both onomatopoeia and rhythm? Use the audience's reaction as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-line poem about an outdoor sound. Use one pair of rhyming end words, repeat one word at least twice, include alliteration and one onomatopoeia, then write one sentence explaining how one sound element affects the reader.

ANSWER KEY

Sounds After Rain

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline repeated words or phrases, circle words that imitate sounds, number each pair of rhyming end words, and put a star beside alliteration. Use your marks to explain how the sound choices shape the mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word does Leo repeat in the first paragraph? How does that repetition direct the reader's attention?	**Leo repeats "Listen." The repetition directs the reader to pay attention to the evening sounds.**
2	Which two end words rhyme in the first two lines of Maya's poem? How does the rhyme support the poem's calm mood?	**"Slow" and "flow" rhyme. Their similar ending sounds make the lines sound smooth and musical, supporting the calm mood.**
3	Find the alliteration in the last line of the poem. What sound is repeated, and what effect does it create?	**"Peeks" and "pale" repeat the p sound. The repeated soft sound adds to the poem's gentle feeling.**
4	How do the repeated words "Tap, tap, tap" work as both onomatopoeia and rhythm? Use the audience's reaction as evidence.	**The words imitate the sound of rain tapping and create a steady beat. The students tapped their tables in time, showing that they heard the rhythm.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wind whirls over the willow tree. Buzz, buzz, bees drift by me. The grass bends low and green. I feel the quiet, cool scene. The repeated word "buzz" helps the reader hear the busy bees.

Accept answers that identify the stated sound patterns and explain a reasonable effect supported by the passage. For the poem, accept varied topics and wording if all required elements are present and the explanation accurately connects one element to an effect.