Light Through Fog

Notice how sound, description, and narrator shape a scene.

6.RL.2 "Craft and Style Describe the poetic elements in prose and poetry (e.g., rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) and their intended impact on the reader. Explain elements of author's style as purposeful choices (e.g...."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that create a picture, circle sound or repeated words, and number two clues that show who is telling the story. Use your marks to explain how the scene's feeling changes.

Harbor Light

1 At dusk, I carried my grandfather's brass key up the hill toward Harbor Light. Wind worried the tall grass, whispering, whistling, worrying at my coat. Below me, the sea slapped the rocks, clap, clap, clap, while fog folded over the dock. I had promised to light the lamp before the fishing boats returned. Yet each step made the empty lighthouse seem taller. Its black windows watched the path like unblinking eyes, and I tightened my grip on the key.

2 Inside, the stair curled upward through a cold, narrow tower. My boots tapped the iron steps, tap, tap, tap, and the sound followed me. I told myself, "Keep climbing. Keep climbing." On the landing, I found a notebook with my grandfather's neat writing: "A steady light guides people home." The words warmed me more than my thin jacket. I pictured the crews below, searching the gray water for one bright signal. For the first time, the tower did not feel like a trap. It felt like a responsibility.

3 At the top, I fitted the key into the lamp room door. Click. The lock opened, and a round window showed three boats rocking far below. Their tiny lanterns blinked through the fog, then vanished, then blinked again. I trimmed the wick and struck the match. Fffft, the flame caught. Gold light swept across the water, and the boats turned toward shore. I laughed, not because the night had changed, but because I had. The lighthouse was no longer a monster in the dark. It was a watchful friend.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find one example of alliteration and one example of onomatopoeia. What effect does each sound choice have on the scene?

2. How does the repeated phrase “Keep climbing” affect your understanding of the narrator?

3. What point of view is used? Give two clues from the passage, then explain how this point of view affects the way events are described.

4. Compare the beginning and the ending. How do imagery and word choice change the tone of the scene? Use evidence from both parts of the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4 to 6 sentence first-person scene in which the narrator’s feeling changes. Include one vivid image, one sound word, and a repeated phrase, then use word choice to show the change.

ANSWER KEY

Light Through Fog

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that create a picture, circle sound or repeated words, and number two clues that show who is telling the story. Use your marks to explain how the scene's feeling changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find one example of alliteration and one example of onomatopoeia. What effect does each sound choice have on the scene?	**"Whispering, whistling, worrying" is alliteration that creates a windy, flowing sound. "Click" or "Fffft" is onomatopoeia that makes the actions at the lighthouse seem immediate.**
2	How does the repeated phrase "Keep climbing" affect your understanding of the narrator?	**It shows that the narrator is trying to stay brave and continue despite feeling afraid.**
3	What point of view is used? Give two clues from the passage, then explain how this point of view affects the way events are described.	**The passage uses first-person point of view. Clues include "I carried" and "I told myself." Readers experience the tower through the narrator's thoughts, fears, and changing feelings.**
4	Compare the beginning and the ending. How do imagery and word choice change the tone of the scene? Use evidence from both parts of the passage.	**At the beginning, "black windows" that "watched" and the "empty lighthouse" create an uneasy feeling. At the end, "gold light," boats turning toward shore, and "watchful friend" create relief and confidence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I stepped into the empty gym after sunset, and blue shadows stretched across the polished floor. Creak, went the bleachers, and I whispered, "Just one more step. Just one more step." Then the custodian switched on the lights, spilling warm yellow circles across the room. I breathed easily and carried the lost backpack to the office.

Accept sound examples such as "clap, clap, clap," "tap, tap, tap," "Click," or "Fffft" when students accurately explain their effects. For the open task, accept varied scenes if they use first person, include the required techniques, and show a clear change in feeling through details.