Garden After Rain

Analyze how figurative language creates meaning in a literary scene.

7.RV.1.E "Analyze the construction and meaning of figurative language, including simile, hyperbole, metaphor, and personification."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one simile, one hyperbole, one metaphor, and two examples of personification. Write S, H, M, or P above each underlined phrase to show how the writer creates a picture or feeling.

The Morning Cleanup

1 At dawn, Maya unlocked the gate to the community garden after a night of heavy rain. Puddles shone between the beds, and wet leaves clung to the fence. The wind had tossed the tomato cages, but the seedlings still stood in rows. Maya stepped carefully, because the muddy path was as slippery as a wet bar of soap. Above her, gray clouds pressed low over the roofs, promising another shower before breakfast began in her house.

2 Then Maya heard a small scrape near the compost bin. A blue jay hopped along the rim, studying the water below. "The storm left its fingerprints everywhere," Maya said, pointing to broken stems and scattered mulch. Her grandfather arrived with a rake and wheelbarrow. He smiled at the work ahead. "We have a mountain of chores," he said, though the garden was no bigger than a basketball court. The wheelbarrow complained as they loaded branches, and the rake scratched lines across the soaked soil.

3 By noon, the clouds broke apart, and sunlight spilled over the beds. Maya and her grandfather reset the cages, cleared the path, and tucked mulch around the plants. The garden seemed to wake from a long sleep. Bees returned to the marigolds, and the air hummed with their wings. Maya looked at the neat rows. "We worked until our arms were noodles," she said. Her grandfather laughed, and a bright red tomato winked from beneath a leaf near the stem.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two things are compared in “as slippery as a wet bar of soap”? How does this simile help you understand the path?

2. What type of figurative language is used in “The storm left its fingerprints everywhere”? Explain what the phrase means in this scene.

3. Why is “We have a mountain of chores” a hyperbole? Use another detail from the paragraph in your answer.

4. In the final paragraph, identify the metaphor and the personification in these phrases: “our arms were noodles” and “a bright red tomato winked.” What does each phrase mean?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about restoring an outdoor place. In one sentence, use a simile or metaphor. In the other, use personification or hyperbole. Underline each figurative phrase, then add a third sentence explaining what one phrase helps the reader imagine.

ANSWER KEY

Garden After Rain

GRADE 7 · 7.RV.1.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one simile, one hyperbole, one metaphor, and two examples of personification. Write S, H, M, or P above each underlined phrase to show how the writer creates a picture or feeling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two things are compared in "as slippery as a wet bar of soap"? How does this simile help you understand the path?	**It compares the muddy path to a wet bar of soap. It shows that the path is very slippery and difficult to walk on safely.**
2	What type of figurative language is used in "The storm left its fingerprints everywhere"? Explain what the phrase means in this scene.	**It is personification. The storm is given human fingerprints to show that its damage and effects can be seen throughout the garden.**
3	Why is "We have a mountain of chores" a hyperbole? Use another detail from the paragraph in your answer.	**It exaggerates the amount of work to show that the cleanup feels huge. The garden is actually only as large as a basketball court, not a mountain.**
4	In the final paragraph, identify the metaphor and the personification in these phrases: "our arms were noodles" and "a bright red tomato winked." What does each phrase mean?	**"Our arms were noodles" is a metaphor that means Maya and her grandfather's arms feel weak and tired. "A bright red tomato winked" is personification that makes the tomato seem lively and noticeable beneath the leaf.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the rain, _the playground was a mirror_, reflecting the sky in its puddles. _Brooms marched_ across the pavement as students cleaned up. This personification helps the cleanup seem busy and organized.

For the marking job, accept clear examples such as "as slippery as a wet bar of soap" for simile, "a mountain of chores" for hyperbole, "our arms were noodles" for metaphor, and "the storm left its fingerprints everywhere" or "a bright red tomato winked" for personification. Accept other reasonable personification choices if the student explains the human-like action accurately.