Fog Ferry Echoes

Notice how sound and pattern shape a tense journey.

8.RL.2.A "Interpret the meaning and analyze the impact of poetic elements in prose and poetry (e.g., rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) on the reader."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline repeated words or phrases, and circle words that imitate sounds. In the margin, write R beside one repeated pattern and S beside one sound word that helps shape the scene.

The Last Ferry

1 At dusk, Mara waited beside the harbor for the last ferry. Ropes rubbed the dock with a soft scrape, scrape, scrape. Above her, gulls wheeled through the violet sky, crying sharp notes that cut across the water. The town behind her was all window light and chimney smoke. Ahead, the bay looked black and glassy. Mara tightened her coat and listened for the boat's engine, hoping it would arrive before the fog closed around the pier.

2 Then a low thrum rose beyond the breakwater. Thrum, thrum, thrum, it pressed through the fog. Mara counted each pulse as the sound grew closer. A lantern blinked on the water, then another, and the ferry's white bow appeared. Its motor muttered and chugged, chugged and muttered, while small waves slapped the pilings. Mara stepped forward, but the ferry slowed far from the dock, hidden again behind a curtain of mist. No one called from its deck.

3 At last, the fog thinned. The ferry came forward, slow and silent, except for its steady hum. Mara saw the captain raise one hand. She lifted hers in return. As the gangplank dropped, the dock gave a hollow clunk. Mara crossed above the dark water, one step, one step, one step. Inside the cabin, a child tapped a tune against the glass: tap, tip, tap, tip. Mara chose a seat by the window, and the shore lights slipped away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What repeated sound appears in paragraph 2? Explain how the repetition affects the reader as the ferry approaches.

2. Choose two words or phrases that imitate sounds. What does each one help you hear or imagine?

3. Find the alliterative phrase in paragraph 3. How do its repeated beginning sounds fit the ferry's movement?

4. Compare “Thrum, thrum, thrum” with “one step, one step, one step.” How does each repeated pattern affect the pace or tension of its moment?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences. In the first two sentences, create a brief scene using a repeated word or phrase, a sound-imitating word, and an alliterative phrase. In the final sentence, explain how one of your choices affects the reader.

ANSWER KEY

Fog Ferry Echoes

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline repeated words or phrases, and circle words that imitate sounds. In the margin, write R beside one repeated pattern and S beside one sound word that helps shape the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What repeated sound appears in paragraph 2? Explain how the repetition affects the reader as the ferry approaches.	**"Thrum, thrum, thrum" is repeated. Its steady pulses build anticipation and tension as the ferry comes closer through the fog.**
2	Choose two words or phrases that imitate sounds. What does each one help you hear or imagine?	**Possible answers: "scrape" helps the reader hear ropes rubbing the dock, and "clunk" helps the reader hear the gangplank or dock. Other valid choices include "chugged," "slapped," "hum," "tap," and "tip."**
3	Find the alliterative phrase in paragraph 3. How do its repeated beginning sounds fit the ferry's movement?	**"Slow and silent" uses alliteration. The repeated s sound fits the quiet, gentle movement of the ferry.**
4	Compare "Thrum, thrum, thrum" with "one step, one step, one step." How does each repeated pattern affect the pace or tension of its moment?	**"Thrum, thrum, thrum" creates an approaching, suspenseful beat. "One step, one step, one step" slows the action and emphasizes Mara's careful crossing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain drummed on the roof as Lena waited in the dim hallway. Drip, drip, drip, the leaking pipe counted the minutes, while the pale porch light painted the floor. The repeated "drip" slows the moment and makes the reader feel Lena's restless wait.

Accept reasonable interpretations when students identify a correct poetic element and connect it to a specific effect on the reader. For Part 3, check for all three required sound or pattern choices and a clear explanation of one choice's impact.