

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word Choice & Meaning

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Girl Who Walked Through Storms

Camila didn't like change. To her, new schools, new streets, and new people felt like storms rolling in—loud, messy, and unpredictable.

After her family moved across the country, Camila stayed quiet at her new school. She kept her hood up even when it wasn't raining. "It feels like a thundercloud is sitting on my shoulders," she said.

Her teacher, Ms. Thompson, smiled gently. "Storms don't last forever."

One day, during art class, a girl named Maya asked Camila if she liked to paint. Camila nodded. Maya handed her a brush. "Let's make a sky that's bright again."

They painted side by side for a week—blues, oranges, streaks of light—and Camila started to speak more, laugh more, even take off her hood.

By the end of the month, she stood in front of her painting at the school art show. "I used to feel like I lived inside a rain cloud," she said. "But now it feels like the sun's peeking through."

The audience clapped, but Camila just looked at Maya—and smiled. Storm or not, she had found her umbrella.



Name: _____

The Girl Who Walked Through Storms

1. What does Camila mean when she says, "It feels like a thundercloud is sitting on my shoulders"?

- A. The weather is stormy
- B. She's cold and wet
- C. She feels heavy with sadness or stress
- D. She has to carry something big

2. What phrase shows Camila is starting to feel hopeful again?

- A. "The sun's peeking through"
- B. "I kept my hood up"
- C. "Let's make a sky"
- D. "Storms don't last forever"

3. Fill in the blank:

Camila compared her feelings to living inside a _____.

4. Find two examples of nonliteral language in the story. What does each one really mean?

5. How does the use of figurative language help readers understand Camila's emotions?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: P

Lexile Level: 645L-795L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"In today's story, Camila uses figurative language to describe her emotions—phrases that don't mean exactly what they say but help paint a clearer picture. As we read, we'll think about how the author uses words to help us understand what Camila is feeling."

Vocabulary: storm, thundercloud, umbrella (figurative), peek, streak

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean when someone says, "I feel like I'm under a cloud"?
 2. Why do authors sometimes describe emotions using weather or nature?
 3. What kind of story might use painting and storms as symbols?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Camila describe her feelings at the beginning of the story?
 2. What role does Maya play in helping Camila change?
 3. What phrases help show Camila's growth and new feelings?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the figurative phrases help us understand Camila's emotional journey?
 2. What would this story be like if the author used only literal descriptions?
 3. How can you use nonliteral language in your own writing?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a **"Figurative Feelings Forecast."** They choose a figurative phrase from the story (like "storm on my shoulders" or "sun peeking through") and illustrate it on one side of a page. On the other side, they explain what the phrase really means and describe a time they've felt the same way.

