

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word & Phrase Meanings

Read the short story and answer each question.



When the Wind Sang

Eva sat at the window, staring out at the gray afternoon sky. Her notebook was open on the table, but the page was as empty as her thoughts.

She was supposed to write a poem for class, but every sentence she tried sounded flat. Boring. Lifeless.

Her little brother, Mateo, ran past with a paper kite, laughing as it twisted in the air. The kite danced like a leaf caught in a song. That's when Eva heard it—the wind.

It wasn't loud, but it *whispered* through the trees like a secret. The branches swayed, and the leaves rustled like soft applause.

She grabbed her pencil.

The wind is a ribbon that wraps around the world, she wrote.

It sings to the sky and dances with the trees.

More lines followed. Her words leapt onto the page like frogs into a pond.

That night, Eva read her poem aloud to her family. Her voice was shy at first, but her words felt real. Strong.

"You made the wind feel alive," her mom said, smiling.

Eva smiled back. "I think it just needed someone to listen."



Name: _____

When the Wind Sang

1. What does the phrase "*the kite danced like a leaf caught in a song*" mean?

- A. The kite moved lightly and beautifully in the wind.
- B. The kite was broken and stuck in a tree.
- C. The kite fell straight to the ground.
- D. The kite looked like a leaf because it was green.

2. What does Eva mean when she says "*the wind is a ribbon that wraps around the world*"?

- A. The wind moves gently and reaches everywhere.
- B. The wind is made of paper.
- C. The wind wraps around her like a present.
- D. The wind only travels through windows.

3. Fill in the blank:

Eva's words *leapt onto the page like frogs* into a _____.

4. How does Eva's use of figurative language help us understand her feelings about the wind?

5. Why do you think the author used similes and metaphors in this story?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: P

Lexile Level: 645L-795L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a story about a girl named Eva who discovers the beauty of words through poetry. As we read, we'll look closely at the figurative language she uses—like similes and metaphors—and talk about what those phrases really mean."

Vocabulary: figurative, lifeless, applause, leapt, whispered

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think poetry is?
 2. Why do authors sometimes compare one thing to another (like saying the wind is a ribbon)?
 3. What helps you get ideas when you're stuck?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does Eva notice that helps her start writing?
 2. Which comparisons does Eva make about the wind?
 3. What words or phrases stand out as descriptive or poetic?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the figurative language make the story more interesting or emotional?
 2. How does Eva's attitude about writing change by the end of the story?
 3. Why do you think the author chose to describe the wind this way?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to draw or describe their own "fire tower moment"—a time when something difficult led to a positive result. They should include a short paragraph describing how the setting or situation helped them change their thinking or grow.

