

Strong Word Swap Answer Key

Sample improved version:

The fairgrounds glowed with color as crowds streamed past towering rides that roared above them. Music pulsed from the speakers, drawing children who raced to the booths clutching their bright new prizes. The entire place thrummed with celebration.

(Any student version that reduces adjective and adverb overload by strengthening nouns and verbs is acceptable.)

Teacher's Guide

- Remind students that too many adjectives and adverbs can weaken writing. Strong nouns and verbs often create clearer images.
- Have students underline the overloaded phrases before revising.
- Encourage them to ask: Can I replace this phrase with one precise word?
- Provide sample strong verbs: thundered, drifted, glowed, raced, shimmered, churned.
- Provide sample strong nouns: crowd, canopy, roar, fragrance, blaze, swirl.
- For grades 6 to 8, focus on removing obvious intensifiers like very, really, totally, extremely.
- For grades 9 to 12, emphasize nuance, tone, and choosing verbs that carry meaning on their own.
- Allow peer readings so students can judge if the revision feels cleaner and more powerful.
- Extension idea: Challenge students to revise a paragraph using **zero** adjectives while still maintaining vivid imagery.