A Voice Takes Flight

Find clues to a character's feelings and the author's meaning.

4.LF.16 "Describe how authors use literary devices and text features to convey meaning in prose, poetry, and drama. a. Identify clues in the text to recognize implicit meanings. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two clues that show how Nia feels about reading her poem. Circle two descriptions of her words that show how her feelings change.

One Small Sound

1. The paper in Nia's hands made a soft crackle. At the school poetry reading, she waited behind the curtain while voices floated from the stage. Her name was next. She had practiced her poem until her little brother knew every word, yet now she folded and unfolded one corner of the page. "One small sound," she whispered, but the words felt stuck like stones.

2. Through a gap in the curtain, Nia saw her little brother in the front row. He held up the lopsided paper crane they had folded together that morning. He gave it a tiny wave. Nia stopped folding her page. She took one slow breath, stepped into the light, and read the first line so softly that only the front row leaned forward.

3. Her voice grew steadier with each line. When she reached the last word, a quiet beat passed before the room filled with claps. Nia looked past the lights and saw her brother grinning, the paper crane dancing in his hand. On her way offstage, she whispered, "One small sound." This time, the words felt light enough to fly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Nia feel before she reads? Give two clues from the first paragraph.

2. Why might Nia's brother wave the paper crane at her? Use a detail from the story to explain.

3. How do the descriptions of Nia's words as "stuck like stones" and "light enough to fly" help you understand her change?

4. Nia says "One small sound" twice. What does the phrase seem to mean to her by the end? Support your inference with a clue.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three or four sentences from Nia's brother's point of view after the reading. Use a story clue to show what he understands about Nia, then tell what her reading makes him think about trying something hard himself.

ANSWER KEY

A Voice Takes Flight

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.16

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two clues that show how Nia feels about reading her poem. Circle two descriptions of her words that show how her feelings change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Nia feel before she reads? Give two clues from the first paragraph.	**Nia feels nervous. She folds and unfolds the page, and her words feel stuck like stones.**
2	Why might Nia's brother wave the paper crane at her? Use a detail from the story to explain.	**He may be showing his support. They folded the crane together, and he waves it when he sees her behind the curtain.**
3	How do the descriptions of Nia's words as "stuck like stones" and "light enough to fly" help you understand her change?	**At first, speaking feels hard for Nia. By the end, her words come more easily as she grows confident.**
4	Nia says "One small sound" twice. What does the phrase seem to mean to her by the end? Support your inference with a clue.	**By the end, Nia seems to believe a small start can lead to something bigger. Her voice grows steadier with each line.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nia's first line was so soft that I leaned forward to hear it. I think she was nervous, even though she had practiced with me. Then her voice grew stronger, and I waved our paper crane again. Maybe I can try reading my own poem aloud, even if I feel nervous too.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by specific story clues. In Part 3, look for the brother's point of view, a clue about Nia, and an original thought about his own challenge.