Voices in the Garden

Read with pauses and expression

4.LF.5 "Demonstrate fluency when reading grade-level text and when responding through writing or speaking."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words in each paragraph that help you decide how a character should sound. Add a slash (/) in two places where a brief pause would make the passage easier to follow.

Under the Tool Shed

1. At the school garden, Maya heard a faint scratching under the tool shed. She stopped and listened. Scratch, scratch, scratch. Her friend Leo hurried over with a watering can. "Did you hear that?" Maya whispered. They crouched beside the shed, but the gap beneath it was too dark to see through. Then a tiny brown nose appeared, followed by two long ears.

2. "A rabbit!" Leo cried. The animal hopped out and froze beside a row of lettuce. Maya held up one hand. "Let's stay still," she said softly. The rabbit sniffed a leaf, took one quick bite, and darted behind the fence. For a moment, the garden was quiet again. Then the friends heard the same scratching from under the shed.

3. Leo leaned closer. A second rabbit peeked out, smaller than the first. It hopped across the path and slipped through a hole in the fence. "There's their way home," Maya said. The friends stepped back to give the rabbits room. As they carried their tools away, leaves rustled on the other side of the fence. Maya smiled. "I think they're both safe."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should Maya's voice sound when she asks, “Did you hear that?” Which word tells you?

2. How should Leo's voice sound when he says, “A rabbit!” Which word and mark help you decide?

3. In the sentence about the rabbit sniffing a leaf, after which word should you pause briefly before reading “took one quick bite”? Why?

4. How should Maya's final line sound? Name a clue from the last paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a new event in the garden after the rabbits leave. Include one line of dialogue and a word that shows how the speaker sounds, then add a slash (/) where a reader should pause briefly.

ANSWER KEY

Voices in the Garden

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words in each paragraph that help you decide how a character should sound. Add a slash (/) in two places where a brief pause would make the passage easier to follow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should Maya's voice sound when she asks, “Did you hear that?” Which word tells you?	**Her voice should be quiet. The word “whispered” tells the reader.**
2	How should Leo's voice sound when he says, “A rabbit!” Which word and mark help you decide?	**He should sound loud or excited. The word “cried” and the exclamation mark are clues.**
3	In the sentence about the rabbit sniffing a leaf, after which word should you pause briefly before reading “took one quick bite”? Why?	**Pause after “leaf” because the comma separates the rabbit's actions.**
4	How should Maya's final line sound? Name a clue from the last paragraph.	**She should sound relieved or calm. “Maya smiled” or “they're both safe” supports that reading.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A blue feather landed on the path, / and Leo picked it up. “Look at this!” he exclaimed. Maya glanced up and saw a blue jay on a branch.

Accept brief pauses at commas or other natural phrase breaks. For the voice questions, accept descriptions supported by the passage's words or punctuation.