Voices on Stage

Use pace, pauses, and expression to bring a story to life.

5.LF.5 "Demonstrate fluency when independently reading, writing, and speaking in response to grade-level literary and informational text, including stories, dramas, poetry, and cross-curricular texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases you would stress when reading aloud, and circle three punctuation marks where you would pause so a listener can follow the action.

The Squeak Beneath the Stage

1 The school play was about to begin when Mina heard a thin squeak beneath the stage. She froze, holding a paper crown in one hand. "Did you hear that?" she whispered to Leo. He shook his head, but the sound came again, louder this time. The curtain would rise in two minutes. Mina set down her crown and followed the sound toward a narrow gap beside the steps.

2 Behind the steps, a small dog tugged at a loose rope. The rope was tied to a painted moon that hung above the stage. "Stop!" Mina cried, but the dog pulled again. The moon dipped toward the floor. Leo hurried over and gently lifted the rope away from the dog's teeth. Mina caught the moon before it hit the boards.

3 For a moment, nobody spoke. Then the dog sneezed, and Leo laughed so hard that Mina nearly dropped the moon. "Is everyone ready?" called their teacher from behind the curtain. Mina hooked the moon back in place while Leo guided the dog into the hall. The curtain rose. This time, Mina smiled when she heard the quiet squeak of Leo's shoes as he hurried to his seat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Read "The curtain would rise in two minutes" aloud. Which words would you stress to show that Mina must act quickly, and why?

2. When Mina says "Stop!" in paragraph 2, how should your voice change? What clues in the text guide you?

3. In the sentence beginning "Then the dog sneezed," where would you pause? How does that pause help a listener?

4. How would you change your pace when you reach "The curtain rose"? Explain using the action just before it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a surprising discovery at school. Include a comma for a short pause, a question mark, and an exclamation point, then read your sentences aloud using pauses and expression.

ANSWER KEY

Voices on Stage

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases you would stress when reading aloud, and circle three punctuation marks where you would pause so a listener can follow the action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Read "The curtain would rise in two minutes" aloud. Which words would you stress to show that Mina must act quickly, and why?	**Stress "two minutes" because it shows how little time Mina has.**
2	When Mina says "Stop!" in paragraph 2, how should your voice change? What clues in the text guide you?	**Read it louder and more sharply. The exclamation point and "cried" show that Mina is alarmed.**
3	In the sentence beginning "Then the dog sneezed," where would you pause? How does that pause help a listener?	**Pause after "sneezed." The pause separates the dog's sneeze from Leo's laughter.**
4	How would you change your pace when you reach "The curtain rose"? Explain using the action just before it.	**Slow down and pause after the short sentence. Mina and Leo have just hurried to put things right, and the curtain rising marks a new moment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my locker, a small bell began to ring. Who put it there? I opened the door and found a talking clock!

Accept different choices of stressed words or pace when students explain how those choices help a listener understand the passage. For Part 3, check for three sentences, all three required punctuation marks, and an oral reading that reflects them.