Pronoun Spotlight

Notice how writers add emphasis with intensive pronouns.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.1b "Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every intensive pronoun in the passage. Draw a line from each one to the noun or pronoun it emphasizes.

The Library Sorting Robot

1 At the city library, a group of sixth graders built a small robot that sorts returned books by color. During the first test, we ourselves placed each book on the robot's tray and watched its sensors. Mina herself checked the labels because a blue sticker could send a book to the wrong bin. The robot rolled slowly at first, then stopped beside the green shelf. Its blinking light showed that it had found the color correctly.

2 Before the next trial, Mr. Ortiz asked the team to inspect the robot's wheels. The students themselves noticed a thread wrapped around one axle. Rather than waiting for an adult, they carefully removed it with tweezers. Mr. Ortiz did not repair the robot; he only gave safety advice. “You solved the problem yourselves,” he said. The team recorded the fix in its design notebook, so future builders could understand why the robot had paused during the trial that day.

3 At the library showcase, visitors asked how the robot made choices. I myself explained that its color sensor reads reflected light, while Jordan demonstrated the moving tray. The team members themselves answered questions about mistakes and changes. One visitor praised the students for testing many ideas. “Our robot cannot think like a person,” Mina said, “but it follows instructions that we wrote.” Afterward, the group shared its plans with a younger robotics club from a nearby school.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, name the two intensive pronouns and tell what each one emphasizes.

2. Rewrite "The students themselves noticed a thread wrapped around one axle" without the intensive pronoun. What emphasis is lost?

3. Which intensive pronoun does Mr. Ortiz use in paragraph 2? Which pronoun does it emphasize?

4. Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that uses an intensive pronoun to emphasize the speaker.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a project or task. Use two intensive pronouns, and place each one right after the noun or pronoun it emphasizes.

ANSWER KEY

Pronoun Spotlight

GRADE 6 · L.6.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every intensive pronoun in the passage. Draw a line from each one to the noun or pronoun it emphasizes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, name the two intensive pronouns and tell what each one emphasizes.	**ourselves emphasizes we; herself emphasizes Mina.**
2	Rewrite "The students themselves noticed a thread wrapped around one axle" without the intensive pronoun. What emphasis is lost?	**The students noticed a thread wrapped around one axle. The original emphasizes that the students, not an adult, noticed it.**
3	Which intensive pronoun does Mr. Ortiz use in paragraph 2? Which pronoun does it emphasize?	**yourselves; it emphasizes You.**
4	Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that uses an intensive pronoun to emphasize the speaker.	**I myself explained that its color sensor reads reflected light, while Jordan demonstrated the moving tray.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My partner herself tested the bridge model before class. I myself measured the longest span with a ruler.

Accept correct identification of each intensive pronoun and its emphasized noun or pronoun. For Part 3, accept any two sentences with two correctly placed intensive pronouns used for emphasis, not as reflexive objects.