Voices at Dusk

Use punctuation and meaning to guide a smooth rereading.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4b "Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB First, read the passage aloud once. Underline commas and periods where you will pause, circle words that show how a character sounds or feels, then read it aloud two more times using your marks to sound smooth and expressive.

The Lighthouse Signal

1 At dusk, Mara climbed the narrow steps of the harbor lighthouse with her grandfather. Wind tapped the round windows, and gulls called above the waves. "Tonight," Grandpa said, "we will watch the first autumn storm." Mara held the rail tightly, but she kept climbing. At the top, the lamp swept a bright path across the dark water.

2 Clouds gathered quickly, and the harbor grew quiet. Then a low boom rolled over the water. "Thunder?" Mara whispered. Grandpa nodded, but his voice stayed calm. "Listen," he said. "The lighthouse sends its own message." A horn sounded once, then twice. Ships beyond the rocks could hear it.

3 Mara watched the light turn, pause, and turn again. The storm moved closer, yet the lighthouse stood firm. Its beam flashed over the waves like a steady hand pointing home. Mara loosened her grip on the rail. "I think the ships will find their way," she said. Grandpa smiled. Below them, the harbor lights winked through the rain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Read the first paragraph aloud. In Grandpa's first spoken sentence, where should you make a short pause because of a comma?

2. Reread the second paragraph aloud. Which word tells you that Mara should use a quiet voice when she says "Thunder?"

3. Read the first sentence of the last paragraph aloud twice. Which three actions should you separate with small pauses?

4. Read Mara's spoken sentence in the last paragraph aloud. What feeling should your voice show when she says the ships will find their way?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three original sentences about a storm at sea. Include one line of dialogue and at least one comma, mark each place you will pause with a slash, then read your sentences aloud three times with smooth phrasing and expression.

ANSWER KEY # Voices at Dusk

GRADE 4 · RF.4.4b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

First, read the passage aloud once. Underline commas and periods where you will pause, circle words that show how a character sounds or feels, then read it aloud two more times using your marks to sound smooth and expressive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Read the first paragraph aloud. In Grandpa's first spoken sentence, where should you make a short pause because of a comma?	**After "Tonight" and after "said."**
2	Reread the second paragraph aloud. Which word tells you that Mara should use a quiet voice when she says "Thunder?"	**Whispered.**
3	Read the first sentence of the last paragraph aloud twice. Which three actions should you separate with small pauses?	**Turn, pause, and turn again.**
4	Read Mara's spoken sentence in the last paragraph aloud. What feeling should your voice show when she says the ships will find their way?	**Hopeful or confident.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain hammered the deck, / and waves splashed over the rail. "Stay close to the shore," / Captain Lee called. The small boat turned toward the safe harbor.

Accept accurate punctuation and word-based markings that support pauses and expression. Listen as students reread, noting accurate words, a steady rate, pauses at punctuation, and expression that matches the meaning.