

Pause and Perform

Use punctuation and dialogue to plan a smooth, expressive reading.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4 "Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Draw a slash after each comma and each sentence-ending mark to show where you will pause. Circle all words inside quotation marks so you can read dialogue with a voice that matches its punctuation.

The Garden Sign

- ① On a clear Saturday morning, Maya helped her grandfather at the community garden. She carried a watering can between rows of beans and tomatoes. Near the gate, she noticed a small sign leaning sideways. "The wind knocked it over," Grandfather said. Maya set down the can, lifted the sign, and pressed its wooden stake into the soil.
- ② Just then, a breeze swept through the garden, bending the tall sunflower stems. Maya held the sign while her grandfather packed soil around its base. "Will it stay up now?" she asked. "It should," he replied, "but let us check it after the next strong wind." Maya listened carefully, picturing the sign standing firm beside the gate.
- ③ By noon, the breeze had faded, and the garden was quiet again. Maya and her grandfather tested the sign with a gentle push. It did not wobble. "We fixed it together!" Maya cried. Grandfather smiled and handed her the watering can. As Maya walked down the path, she read the sign aloud: "Please close the gate to protect the plants."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which words in paragraph 1 come before the first comma, showing a short opening pause?

2 Which quoted sentence in paragraph 2 should end with a rising question voice?

3 In paragraph 2, which two commas help you pause around the words he replied?

4 Copy the instruction Maya reads aloud in paragraph 3. Read it as one smooth direction.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about helping solve a small problem. Include a comma in one sentence and an exclamation point in the other. Draw slash marks where you would pause, and underline one word you would stress when reading aloud.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Draw a slash after each comma and each sentence-ending mark to show where you will pause. Circle all words inside quotation marks so you can read dialogue with a voice that matches its punctuation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words in paragraph 1 come before the first comma, showing a short opening pause?	On a clear Saturday morning
2	Which quoted sentence in paragraph 2 should end with a rising question voice?	"Will it stay up now?"
3	In paragraph 2, which two commas help you pause around the words he replied?	The comma after "should" and the comma after "replied."
4	Copy the instruction Maya reads aloud in paragraph 3. Read it as one smooth direction.	"Please close the gate to protect the plants."

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The loose kite string tangled, / so I held it still. / My sister _cheered_! /

Accept slash marks that show pauses at commas and sentence-ending punctuation, along with circles around the quoted speech. For Part 3, accept any two original sentences that include the required comma, exclamation point, pause marks, and one clearly underlined stressed word.