Talk It Through

Study dialogue punctuation in a science notebook scene.

ELA.4.C.3 "Following Conventions"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each set of spoken words. Circle the punctuation mark that ends each set, so you can study how the writer makes each speaker's words clear.

Bean Plant Notes

1. After lunch, Mia carried a tray of bean cups to the classroom window. “Look, one seed has a tiny root!” Mia said. Eli leaned closer and smiled. The class had planted the seeds three days earlier. Their teacher asked them to observe the cups, record changes, and water the soil when it felt dry. Each group kept a chart.

2. The next morning, Eli pointed to a pale stem. “Can we measure it with a ruler?” he asked. Mia found a ruler in the supply box. “Please write the height in centimeters,” she said. Eli measured the stem carefully, then wrote 2 centimeters on the chart. The students noticed that the plant was growing toward the light.

3. On Friday, the class compared the plants in each cup. “My plant is four centimeters tall,” Mia said. Eli checked his chart and replied, “Mine is three centimeters tall.” The teacher said, “Our careful notes helped us see the change.” The class decided to keep watching the plants next week. They wanted to learn how much the stems would grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy Mia's first spoken sentence exactly, including all punctuation.

2. What punctuation mark ends Eli's spoken words in paragraph 2?

3. Why does Please begin with a capital letter in paragraph 2?

4. What punctuation mark follows replied in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about observing a plant or animal. Include spoken words from two different people, make one spoken sentence a question, and use quotation marks, capital letters, commas, and end punctuation correctly.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each set of spoken words. Circle the punctuation mark that ends each set, so you can study how the writer makes each speaker's words clear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy Mia's first spoken sentence exactly, including all punctuation.	**"Look, one seed has a tiny root!"**
2	What punctuation mark ends Eli's spoken words in paragraph 2?	**A question mark.**
3	Why does Please begin with a capital letter in paragraph 2?	**It begins a complete spoken sentence.**
4	What punctuation mark follows replied in paragraph 3?	**A comma.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

"Did you see the robin build its nest?" Ava asked. "Yes, it carried a twig to the tree," Ben said. They watched quietly from the sidewalk.

Accept Question 1 only when the capital letter, comma, quotation marks, and exclamation point are correct. For Your Turn, accept any relevant three-sentence response with two different speakers and correct dialogue conventions.