Pause and Perform

Use punctuation clues to read with smooth phrasing and expression.

ELA.4.F.1 "Learning and Applying Foundational Reading Skills"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every question mark and exclamation point. Draw a slash after each comma to show a short pause for expressive reading.

Maya's Garden Watch

1. On a cool September morning, Maya stood beside the school garden with her notebook. A bright orange butterfly landed on a milkweed leaf. "Is it a monarch?" Maya whispered. Her teacher nodded and pointed to its black lines. "Look closely," she said. The wings have tiny white spots along the edges. "That helps us identify it in our garden."

2. Maya watched as the butterfly opened and closed its wings. It lifted into the air, circled the garden, and settled on another plant. "Where is it going?" she asked. Her teacher explained that monarchs use milkweed plants. The plants give monarch caterpillars the food they need to grow. Maya wrote the new fact in her notebook.

3. Later, a breeze shook the tall flowers near the fence. Maya spotted three more monarchs above the garden. "I found them!" she called. She did not chase the butterflies because their wings are delicate. Instead, she sketched their colors, counted the flowers they visited, and shared her notes with the class. At lunch, Maya wondered, "Will they return tomorrow?"

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence in paragraph 1 should end with your voice rising? Copy the sentence.

2. Which sentence should you read with excited expression? Copy the sentence.

3. In the sentence that begins "It lifted into the air," after which two words should you pause briefly?

4. At the end of the passage, should your voice rise or fall when you read Maya's quoted words? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal you notice. Make one sentence a question and one an excited statement, and use a comma for a short pause.

ANSWER KEY

Pause and Perform

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.F.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle every question mark and exclamation point. Draw a slash after each comma to show a short pause for expressive reading. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 1 should end with your voice rising? Copy the sentence.	**"Is it a monarch?"**
2	Which sentence should you read with excited expression? Copy the sentence.	**"I found them!"**
3	In the sentence that begins "It lifted into the air," after which two words should you pause briefly?	**after "air" and after "garden"**
4	At the end of the passage, should your voice rise or fall when you read Maya's quoted words? Explain why.	**Rise, because Maya's words end with a question mark.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Did you spot the fox near the woods? Look, it is carrying a red leaf!

For Part 1, students should circle three question marks and one exclamation point, then slash eight commas. Accept equivalent descriptions of rising, excited, and pausing voices when they match the punctuation.