Mars Rover Voice

Repeated reading for smooth, expressive phrasing.

ELA.612.F.2.4 "Read grade-level texts, at the student's ability level, with accuracy, automaticity, and prosody or expression using the student's mode of communication."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read each paragraph aloud twice. On your second reading, draw slashes between smooth word groups and underline two words in each paragraph that need stronger stress.

Sojourner's First Tracks

1 In 1997, a small rover named Sojourner rolled across Mars. It was about the size of a microwave oven, yet it sent valuable information to scientists on Earth. Sojourner traveled from the Pathfinder lander and examined rocks with its instruments. Its wheels moved slowly over dusty ground, while its camera showed a landscape of red soil and scattered stones. The rover proved that a robot could explore another planet for many days. Each image added to scientists' understanding of Mars.

2 One image from Sojourner helped scientists notice rounded pebbles near the landing site. Rounded pebbles can form when flowing water rubs rocks together over time. This evidence did not mean water was flowing on Mars in 1997. Instead, it suggested that liquid water may have moved through the area long ago. That possibility changed how scientists studied Mars. They looked for more clues about the planet's ancient climate and landscape. The small rover had opened a much larger question.

3 Before Sojourner, the Pathfinder mission had already made history by landing safely on Mars. The lander unfolded panels, took pictures, and sent signals home. Sojourner then drove away from the lander, becoming the first rover to operate on Mars. Its trip was short by modern standards, but its work was important. Later rovers, including Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity, and Perseverance, traveled farther and carried more tools. Still, Sojourner's first tracks showed what future explorers could accomplish on Mars.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the first sentence with slashes to show smooth word groups as you read it aloud.

2. In paragraph 1, which word would you stress in the sentence about Sojourner's size and information? Explain what the stress shows.

3. Read the list of later rovers in paragraph 3 aloud. Copy the four rover names in the order they appear.

4. How should your voice change when you read the final sentence? Name a word to stress and explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two original sentences about a new robot exploring Mars. Use a slash to show one natural phrase pause in each sentence, and write one word in ALL CAPS in each sentence to show a word you would stress.

ANSWER KEY # Mars Rover Voice

GRADE 6 · ELA.612.F.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read each paragraph aloud twice. On your second reading, draw slashes between smooth word groups and underline two words in each paragraph that need stronger stress. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the first sentence with slashes to show smooth word groups as you read it aloud.	**In 1997, / a small rover named Sojourner / rolled across Mars.**
2	In paragraph 1, which word would you stress in the sentence about Sojourner's size and information? Explain what the stress shows.	**yet. Stressing "yet" shows the contrast between Sojourner's small size and its valuable work.**
3	Read the list of later rovers in paragraph 3 aloud. Copy the four rover names in the order they appear.	**Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity, Perseverance.**
4	How should your voice change when you read the final sentence? Name a word to stress and explain why.	**Pause slightly after "Still" and stress "first," because the sentence highlights Sojourner's early role before later explorers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new robot / tested the rocky ground. It sent CLEAR pictures / to scientists on Earth.

Accept different sensible slash placements and stress words when the student can explain how the choice supports smooth, meaningful reading. Check that rover names are copied accurately and that the open response has two original sentences, one slash and one stressed word in each.