Sounds in the Garden

Read smoothly, using punctuation and meaning to guide your voice.

3.RF "Students read grade-level text independently and fluently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence you would read with a questioning voice, and circle two commas where you would pause briefly. Then reread the passage aloud, using your marks to help your voice flow smoothly.

The Quiet Bell

1 On Monday, Nia noticed a tiny bell beside the school garden. It hung from a hook on a wooden stake above the bean plants. When a breeze blew, the bell gave a soft ring. But this morning it stayed quiet, even while the leaves shook. Nia leaned close and saw that a vine had curled around the bell. It held the bell against the stake.

2 "Can we pull the vine away?" asked her friend Leo. Nia shook her head. The vine was young and easy to snap. She gently lifted the bell instead, but the vine still held on. Leo found a short stick on the ground. He slid it under the vine and eased the curl loose. The bell swung free without breaking a leaf.

3 A breeze rushed through the garden, and the bell rang once. Leo grinned. "There it goes!" he said. Nia heard another sound too. Bees buzzed among the flowers. She and Leo stood still to listen. Soon the breeze faded, and the bell grew quiet again. Nia liked how the garden changed its sounds, even when she stayed in one place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Read Leo's question aloud. What mark ends it, and how should your voice sound?

2. Read the sentence that begins "When a breeze blew." After which word should you pause briefly?

3. How should your voice sound when you read "There it goes!"? What mark gives you a clue?

4. Find the sentence that tells you the bell became quiet again. How could your voice match that change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a different sound Nia and Leo might hear in the garden. Write two sentences they might say aloud: one question and one excited statement. Read your sentences aloud with voices that fit the punctuation.

ANSWER KEY

Sounds in the Garden

GRADE 3 · 3.RF

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence you would read with a questioning voice, and circle two commas where you would pause briefly. Then reread the passage aloud, using your marks to help your voice flow smoothly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Read Leo's question aloud. What mark ends it, and how should your voice sound?	**It ends with a question mark. Read it with a questioning voice.**
2	Read the sentence that begins "When a breeze blew." After which word should you pause briefly?	**Pause briefly after "blew," where the comma appears.**
3	How should your voice sound when you read "There it goes!"? What mark gives you a clue?	**Read it with excitement. The exclamation point gives the clue.**
4	Find the sentence that tells you the bell became quiet again. How could your voice match that change?	**"Soon the breeze faded, and the bell grew quiet again." Read it more softly as the sound fades.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Did you hear that bird sing? Its song sounds like a whistle!

For the marking job, accept any two commas that guide brief pauses. For Your Turn, accept two original sentences about a possible garden sound, with a question mark, an exclamation point, and matching expression when read aloud.