When the Bridge Fell

Mark the clues that guide an expressive read-aloud.

4.RF.3 "Orally read grade-level appropriate or higher texts smoothly and accurately with expression that connotes comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that signal a change in feeling or volume. Circle punctuation that tells you to pause or shift your voice as you read aloud.

A New Way Forward

1. The school auditorium hummed as Nia stepped behind the curtain. Tonight, her class would perform a play about a lost explorer. Nia held a cardboard compass, but her hands shook. "You know the path," whispered Leo, who played the guide. Nia nodded and took one slow breath. Then the curtain slid open, and every face in the front row turned toward her.

2. Nia raised the compass. "North, north... where did the trail go?" she asked, squinting into the painted trees. A loud crack came from the side of the stage. The cardboard bridge had tipped over! Leo froze, but Nia pointed toward a strip of blue cloth. "The river!" she called. "We can follow it instead." Leo hurried beside her, and the scene kept moving.

3. Behind the curtain, the bridge was set upright again. The final scene ended, and the audience clapped. "I thought we were stuck," Leo said as they bowed. Nia grinned. "So did I, for a moment." She looked at the blue cloth still stretched across the stage. It had been a river in their play, but it had also helped them find a new way forward.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should you say Leo's words, "You know the path"? Which nearby word gives you a clue?

2. Where should you pause in "North, north... where did the trail go?" What does that pause show?

3. How would you change your pace or voice when you read that the bridge tipped over? What in the text supports your choice?

4. How should "The river!" sound different from Nia's question about the trail? Which action supports your choice?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two neighboring sentences in the last paragraph and write the first three words of the first sentence to show which ones you chose. Then write two sentences explaining where you will pause and how you will change your voice to show their meaning. Read your chosen sentences aloud.

ANSWER KEY

When the Bridge Fell

GRADE 4 · 4.RF.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that signal a change in feeling or volume. Circle punctuation that tells you to pause or shift your voice as you read aloud. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should you say Leo's words, "You know the path"? Which nearby word gives you a clue?	**Say the words softly. The word "whispered" is the clue.**
2	Where should you pause in "North, north... where did the trail go?" What does that pause show?	**Pause after the second "north." It shows that Nia is unsure where the trail went.**
3	How would you change your pace or voice when you read that the bridge tipped over? What in the text supports your choice?	**Read more quickly or with surprise. The loud crack and the exclamation point show that the bridge fell suddenly.**
4	How should "The river!" sound different from Nia's question about the trail? Which action supports your choice?	**Say "The river!" louder and with more confidence. Nia points toward the blue cloth before she calls out.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Behind the curtain: I will pause at the comma after "curtain" and finish the first sentence in a calm voice because the bridge is fixed. I will make my voice brighter when I read "the audience clapped" because the play has ended well.

Accept other reading choices when students connect them to specific words or punctuation and can demonstrate the choice aloud. For Your Turn, the first three words should identify two neighboring sentences in the last paragraph.