Puddle Boat Voices

Read aloud twice, using phrasing and expression.

RF.3.4.b "Fluently read grade-level prose and poetry orally on successive readings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the story aloud twice; on your second reading, underline two groups of words you can say smoothly in one breath, and circle two punctuation marks that tell you when to pause or change your voice.

The Puddle Race

1 Mara held a paper boat at the edge of a rain puddle. The wind pushed tiny waves across the gray water. “Ready?” she asked her little brother, Ben. He nodded and set his own boat beside hers. Mara counted, “One, two, three!” They let go together. The boats slipped past a wet leaf and headed toward the drain at the far end.

2 Ben's boat bumped a pebble and stopped. “Oh no, my boat is stuck!” he cried. Mara's boat sailed on, but she did not cheer. She picked up a twig and gently nudged the pebble away. Ben's boat floated free. “It's moving!” he said. Now both boats drifted around the puddle's wide bend, side by side, while the rain tapped softly on their coats.

3 Near the drain, the water began to swirl. Mara caught her boat before it could slip through the grate. Ben caught his, too. “Let's make a new river,” Mara said. They dragged their boots through the mud to make a narrow path. Water trickled into it. The boats sailed slowly down the path, and Ben whispered, “Look, they made it home.”

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When Mara asks, “Ready?”, how should your voice change at the end? Which mark helps you decide?

2. How can you read “One, two, three!” so each number is clear? Which marks help you?

3. How should Ben's voice sound when you read “Oh no, my boat is stuck!”? What clue helps you?

4. How should you read “Look, they made it home.” differently from Ben's words about his stuck boat? Which word tells you?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Read the last paragraph aloud twice. Choose a sentence from it that the questions did not quote. In two sentences, tell what you changed on your second reading and which words or punctuation guided your voice.

ANSWER KEY

Puddle Boat Voices

GRADE 3 · RF.3.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the story aloud twice; on your second reading, underline two groups of words you can say smoothly in one breath, and circle two punctuation marks that tell you when to pause or change your voice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When Mara asks, “Ready?”, how should your voice change at the end? Which mark helps you decide?	**Lift your voice at the end. The question mark is the clue.**
2	How can you read “One, two, three!” so each number is clear? Which marks help you?	**Pause briefly at each comma, then say “three” with energy. The commas and exclamation mark help.**
3	How should Ben's voice sound when you read “Oh no, my boat is stuck!”? What clue helps you?	**He should sound worried or alarmed. The text says he cried, and his words end with an exclamation mark.**
4	How should you read “Look, they made it home.” differently from Ben's words about his stuck boat? Which word tells you?	**Read it softly, not with Ben's alarmed voice. The word “whispered” is the clue.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On my second reading, I slowed down when I read the sentence about water trickling into the new path. The word “trickled” helped me show that the water moved slowly.

Accept reasonable choices of phrases and punctuation marks in Part 1. For Part 3, look for two sentences that name a change in oral reading and connect it to a word or punctuation mark in an unquoted sentence from the last paragraph.