Sounds in the Shed

Use pauses and expression to make a second reading clearer.

RF.4.4.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 passage aloud twice. Before your second reading, draw a slash at three places where a brief pause helps the meaning, and circle two words you will stress.

The Sound in the Shed

1 The wind pushed rain against the kitchen window. Mara was setting the table when she heard a soft thump outside. She stopped with a spoon in her hand. There it was again, a thump from the old shed. Her little brother, Leo, looked up from his book. "Did you hear that?" he whispered. Mara nodded and reached for her boots.

2 They hurried across the wet yard. At the shed door, Mara held up one hand. Both children stood still. Tap. Tap. Something moved behind the door, and Leo stepped closer to Mara. She pulled the door open just a crack. A gray shape darted past a stack of flowerpots. Mara gasped, then peered into the dim corner.

3 A small kitten crouched beneath a shelf. Its paws were muddy, and a loose empty pail rocked beside it. Now Mara understood the thumps. The kitten had been bumping the pail while it searched for a dry spot. Leo knelt and held out his hand. The kitten sniffed his fingers, then let out a thin, squeaky meow. Mara laughed softly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When you reread Leo's question aloud, how should your voice sound? Which word in the passage tells you?

2. When you reread "Tap. Tap." aloud, where should you pause? What marks show you?

3. When you reread "She pulled the door open just a crack." aloud, should you speed up or slow down? Which words support your choice?

4. How should your voice change between "Mara gasped" and "Mara laughed softly" when you reread those parts aloud?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about what Mara and Leo do next. Put a slash where you will pause and underline one word to stress, then read your ending aloud twice using your marks.

ANSWER KEY

Sounds in the Shed

GRADE 4 · RF.4.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage aloud twice. Before your second reading, draw a slash at three places where a brief pause helps the meaning, and circle two words you will stress. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When you reread Leo's question aloud, how should your voice sound? Which word in the passage tells you?	**Leo's voice should sound quiet. The word "whispered" tells the reader.**
2	When you reread "Tap. Tap." aloud, where should you pause? What marks show you?	**Pause after each "Tap." The periods show where to pause.**
3	When you reread "She pulled the door open just a crack." aloud, should you speed up or slow down? Which words support your choice?	**Slow down to build suspense. "Just a crack" shows that Mara opens the door carefully.**
4	How should your voice change between "Mara gasped" and "Mara laughed softly" when you reread those parts aloud?	**Sound surprised at "Mara gasped," then gently amused at "Mara laughed softly."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Leo found a dry towel, / and Mara wrapped it around the kitten. A <u>loud</u> purr rose from its warm bundle.

Accept reading choices supported by the passage, even if students choose different pauses or stressed words. In Part 3, check for two original sentences, one slash, one underlined word, and two oral readings.