Voice in the Rain

Mark pauses and voice clues, then read the story aloud.

RF.3.4.a "Engage in a variety of experiences with texts in order to refine understanding of fluent reading."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle punctuation that helps you pause, and underline words that help you choose your voice. Read the story aloud twice, using your marks to make your reading smoother.

A Frog in the Garden

1 At the school garden, Nia spotted a tiny frog beside a deep puddle. It hopped toward the water, then stopped at the edge. "Can you jump that far?" Nia whispered. The frog did not move. A gust shook the tall grass, and dark clouds covered the sun. Nia held her breath as the first drops tapped the path.

2 Plop! A fat raindrop landed beside the frog. It sprang back, straight into Nia's empty lunch box. "Oh no!" she cried. Nia set the box on the ground and lifted its lid. The frog crouched in the corner, safe but still. For a moment, Nia wondered if it was hurt. Then it gave a quick, strong hop.

3 Slowly, Nia carried the box to a patch of wet leaves near the garden fence. She tilted it just a little. The frog hopped out, paused, and slipped under a leaf. "There you go," Nia said softly. The rain grew louder, but Nia could still hear one small croak. She grinned all the way back to class.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Read Nia's first question aloud. How should her voice sound? Which word tells you?

2. Read "Plop!" aloud. Should it sound quick and sharp or slow and soft? What happens at that moment?

3. Read "The frog hopped out, paused, and slipped under a leaf." Where should you make two small pauses?

4. How should your voice change from when Nia wonders if the frog is hurt to when it hops? Why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Copy the final two sentences of the story. Add a slash (/) where you would pause, then write one sentence explaining how your voice should sound when Nia walks back to class.

ANSWER KEY

Voice in the Rain

GRADE 3 · RF.3.4.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle punctuation that helps you pause, and underline words that help you choose your voice. Read the story aloud twice, using your marks to make your reading smoother. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Read Nia's first question aloud. How should her voice sound? Which word tells you?	**Her voice should be quiet because the story says she whispered.**
2	Read "Plop!" aloud. Should it sound quick and sharp or slow and soft? What happens at that moment?	**It should sound quick and sharp. A raindrop suddenly lands beside the frog.**
3	Read "The frog hopped out, paused, and slipped under a leaf." Where should you make two small pauses?	**Pause after "out" and after "paused," where the commas are.**
4	How should your voice change from when Nia wonders if the frog is hurt to when it hops? Why?	**It can change from worried and slow to brighter and quicker because the frog gives a quick, strong hop.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The rain grew louder, / but Nia could still hear one small croak. / She grinned all the way back to class. My voice would sound happy at the end because Nia grinned.

Accept reasonable voice choices supported by words or events in the story. For the open task, look for a pause at the comma and between the two sentences.