Voices Under the Steps

Mark clues that help you read aloud with meaning.

3.2.F.2 "Students will orally and accurately read grade-level text at a smooth rate with expression that connotes comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three punctuation marks that guide your voice, and underline words you will stress to show how a character feels.

The Mystery Under the Steps

1. At recess, Mina heard a tiny squeak beneath the school steps. She froze. "Did you hear that?" she asked Leo. The squeak came again, then stopped. Leo bent down and peered into the dark space. "Maybe it's a mouse," he whispered. Mina saw a flash of orange near a loose board. She waved to their teacher, Ms. Park, and pointed under the steps.

2. Ms. Park knelt beside them. "Let's look carefully," she said. A small, orange kitten pushed its nose into the sunlight. It tried to climb out, but the opening was too narrow. "Oh no!" Mina cried. Ms. Park lifted the loose board while Leo kept his hands back. The kitten stepped into the open and shook dust from its fur. Then it gave a loud, scratchy meow.

3. "You sound hungry," Ms. Park said softly. She called the school office to ask for help. Soon, a neighbor arrived at the gate with a cat carrier. "That's Pumpkin!" the neighbor exclaimed. Pumpkin walked straight to her and rubbed against her shoe. Mina let out a long breath. The mystery under the steps was solved, and Pumpkin had a safe ride home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should your voice sound at the end of "Did you hear that?" Which mark helps you decide?

2. How should you read Leo's words, "Maybe it's a mouse"? Which word tells you?

3. How should you read "Oh no!" to show Mina's feeling? What in the passage supports your choice?

4. What feeling should you show when the neighbor says, "That's Pumpkin!"? Which word supports your choice?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two sentences from the passage that the questions did not quote. Write the first few words of each sentence and explain how you will use your voice or a pause when you read it aloud.

ANSWER KEY

Voices Under the Steps

GRADE 3 · 3.2.F.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three punctuation marks that guide your voice, and underline words you will stress to show how a character feels. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should your voice sound at the end of "Did you hear that?" Which mark helps you decide?	**Let your voice rise at the end because the sentence ends with a question mark.**
2	How should you read Leo's words, "Maybe it's a mouse"? Which word tells you?	**Read them quietly because Leo whispered.**
3	How should you read "Oh no!" to show Mina's feeling? What in the passage supports your choice?	**Read it with alarm. Mina cried out when she saw that the kitten could not get out.**
4	What feeling should you show when the neighbor says, "That's Pumpkin!"? Which word supports your choice?	**Show excitement or happy surprise. The word "exclaimed" supports that choice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For "She froze," I will pause after the sentence so the listener can feel the sudden stop. For "The mystery under the steps," I will read in a calm voice because Pumpkin is safe.

Accept voice choices that fit the passage, even if students use different words to describe them. In Part 3, each explanation should name a sentence not quoted in the questions and describe a meaningful voice choice or pause.