Voices at Dusk

Read with accuracy, smooth phrasing and fitting expression.

ELA.4.F.1.4 "Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle punctuation marks that tell you to pause or change your voice. Underline words you would say with extra feeling or emphasis when you read the passage aloud. Then read the complete passage aloud to a partner or teacher, applying your marks. Have the listener note any word needing help and one fitting expressive choice. Practice any difficult words with support and reread the passage for accuracy, smoothness and expression.

The Garden Chirp

1 At dusk, Maya heard a faint chirp beside the garden gate. She knelt near the marigolds and found a tiny gray tree frog caught in a plastic ring. “Hold still,” she whispered. The frog kicked once, then froze. Maya ran inside for blunt scissors, careful not to make a loud sound that might scare it.

2 Back at the gate, Maya snipped the ring slowly. It slipped away, but the frog did not move. For one long second, Maya held her breath. Then the frog sprang onto a wet stone. “You’re free!” Maya cried. It leaped under a fern, and its chirp rose again from the dark leaves. Maya smiled as the garden grew quiet.

3 At breakfast the next morning, Maya told her brother what happened. He frowned at the empty plastic ring on the table. “Animals can get hurt by our trash?” he asked. Maya nodded. Together, they cut apart the rings from a new pack of juice bottles before placing them in the recycling bin. Outside, a tree frog chirped, bright and clear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When you read “Hold still,” which two words should sound soft? Why?

2. What punctuation mark tells you to pause after the words “For one long second”?

3. Which sentence should be read with the strongest excited voice? Copy it.

4. How should your voice change when you read “Animals can get hurt by our trash?”

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal encounter. Include a question or an exclamation, add one slash where a reader should pause, and underline one or two words you would stress. Read your two sentences aloud with the marked pause and stress to your listener; record one comment about how the voice fits the encounter.

Voices at Dusk

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle punctuation marks that tell you to pause or change your voice. Underline words you would say with extra feeling or emphasis when you read the passage aloud. Then read the complete passage aloud to a partner or teacher, applying your marks. Have the listener note any word needing help and one fitting expressive choice. Practice any difficult words with support and reread the passage for accuracy, smoothness and expression. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When you read "Hold still," which two words should sound soft? Why?	**"Hold still" should sound soft because Maya whispers so she will not scare the frog.**
2	What punctuation mark tells you to pause after the words "For one long second"?	**A comma.**
3	Which sentence should be read with the strongest excited voice? Copy it.	**"You're free!" Maya cried.**
4	How should your voice change when you read "Animals can get hurt by our trash?"	**The voice should rise at the end like a question and sound concerned or surprised.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A small bird fluttered / near the window. Can you <u>see</u> it?

Accept reasonable choices for emphasis and pauses when the student can connect them to punctuation, action, or feeling in the passage. For Part 3, accept any two original sentences that include the required punctuation, pause mark, and stressed word or words. Hear actual full-passage reading and supported rereading, checking accurate words, increasingly ready recognition/smooth phrasing, and expression fitting punctuation and events. Observe actual reading of the two own sentences and a listener comment. No timer or fixed rate test required.