Voices at Dawn

Use punctuation and pacing clues during repeated oral reading.

5RF4.a "Read grade-level text across genres orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage aloud three times. Circle each end mark, and underline only words or phrases that tell you to change your speed, such as *rushed* or *at once*, so you can plan your pauses, voice, and pace.

The Beach Nest

1 At dawn, Lena walked beside Ranger Ortiz on a quiet beach. They were checking the sand for sea turtle tracks. Near the dunes, the ranger stopped and pointed. A trail of flipper marks led from the water to a round patch of disturbed sand. "Look carefully," he said. "A turtle may have made a nest here."

2 Lena crouched near the patch, but she did not touch it. A sudden gust swept sand across her shoes. "Step back!" Ranger Ortiz called. Lena quickly moved away, then held her breath. The ranger spoke slowly: "We must leave the nest undisturbed, so the eggs can develop safely." Lena nodded and watched from several steps away.

3 Just then, a tiny ghost crab scuttled past the nest. It darted sideways, paused, and disappeared beneath the sand. Lena whispered, "Did you see that?" Ranger Ortiz smiled. "Yes, but keep your voice soft. We do not want to disturb the nest." They marked the spot for the research team and continued their walk quietly along the shore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which quoted words should you read with a stronger, urgent voice? What punctuation helps you know?

2. What exact phrase tells you to slow your pace for Ranger Ortiz's next words?

3. Which word tells you that Lena moved at a faster pace?

4. How should your voice sound for Lena's words, “Did you see that?” Use one clue from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-line mini-dialogue. Use one exclamation mark and one word that tells your reader to speed up or slow down, then read your dialogue aloud twice.

ANSWER KEY

Voices at Dawn

GRADE 5 · 5RF4.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage aloud three times. Circle each end mark, and underline only words or phrases that tell you to change your speed, such as *rushed* or *at once*, so you can plan your pauses, voice, and pace. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which quoted words should you read with a stronger, urgent voice? What punctuation helps you know?	**"Step back!" The exclamation mark shows an urgent, stronger voice.**
2	What exact phrase tells you to slow your pace for Ranger Ortiz's next words?	**"The ranger spoke slowly."**
3	Which word tells you that Lena moved at a faster pace?	**quickly**
4	How should your voice sound for Lena's words, "Did you see that?" Use one clue from the passage.	**Read it softly with a questioning voice. Lena whispered, and the sentence ends with a question mark.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

"Careful!" Jo called.
Gradually, Ben opened the gate.
"Can you hear the birds?" he asked.

Accept oral-reading choices that match the dialogue tags, punctuation, and pacing clues in the passage. For the mini-dialogue, accept any original three lines that include an exclamation mark and a clear speed word or phrase.