# The Puddle Race

Read aloud using clues for pace, pauses, and expression.

**4.RF.4.b** "Read grade-appropriate texts in a variety of genres orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and prosody (stress, phrasing, intonation, and expression)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle one question mark and one exclamation point that tell you to change your voice, underline two words you will stress, then read the story aloud using your marks.

### The Puddle Race

1 At recess, Maya and Leo set two paper boats in a long puddle. The wind pushed Maya's bright blue boat across the water. Leo's tiny boat stayed near his shoe. “Come on, little boat,” he whispered. Maya watched a leaf sail past them. “The wind is picking up,” she said. Then a strong gust sent her boat spinning toward the drain. “Will it fall in?” Maya asked.

2 “Wait!” cried Leo. He ran along the puddle, but Maya held out her arm. “Look, the leaf!” The leaf slid in front of the blue boat and nudged it away from the drain. For a moment, both children stood still. Then the boat turned, drifted back, and bumped gently against Maya's shoe. They both let out a long breath.

3 Maya picked up the damp boat. “That was close,” she said softly. Leo lifted his tiny boat from the edge of the puddle. “Mine did not win,” he said, “but it did not sink!” Maya laughed. The bell rang, and they hurried inside. Leo tucked his boat into his pocket, ready for another race tomorrow.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should your voice sound different when you read “Will it fall in?” and “Wait!”? Use the punctuation to explain.

2. Would you read “For a moment, both children stood still” quickly or slowly? Why?

3. Where would you make two short pauses in the sentence that begins “Then the boat turned”?

4. Which words in Leo's final line would you stress to show the difference between losing and staying afloat?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that continue the story. Include dialogue with punctuation that shows how it should sound, underline one word you will stress, then read your sentences aloud.

**ANSWER KEY**

# The Puddle Race



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle one question mark and one exclamation point that tell you to change your voice, underline two words you will stress, then read the story aloud using your marks. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How should your voice sound different when you read “Will it fall in?” and “Wait!”? Use the punctuation to explain. | **Raise your voice at the end of Maya's worried question. Say Leo's “Wait!” sharply and loudly because it is an urgent call.** |
| 2 | Would you read “For a moment, both children stood still” quickly or slowly? Why? | **Read it slowly to show the children waiting to see what happens to the boat.** |
| 3 | Where would you make two short pauses in the sentence that begins “Then the boat turned”? | **Pause after “turned” and after “back,” where the commas separate the boat's actions.** |
| 4 | Which words in Leo's final line would you stress to show the difference between losing and staying afloat? | **Stress “not win” and “not sink,” especially “not sink” to show Leo is glad his boat stayed afloat.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

“Another race tomorrow?” Leo asked with a grin. Maya nodded and set her boat on the windowsill to dry.

Accept different choices of stressed words when students can explain how the stress fits the story. For the continuation, listen for accurate reading, a pause between sentences, and a voice change that fits the dialogue punctuation.