

Punctuation Voices

Punctuation clues guide fluent reading.

3.4 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--fluency. The student reads grade-level text with fluency and comprehension..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each question mark and exclamation mark, and underline each comma. Use your marks to pause or change your voice as you read.

A Garden Surprise

- ① On Thursday morning, Maya carried a small watering can to the school garden. "Look!" she called. A green bean vine had climbed past the wooden stake. Its curly tip reached toward the sun. Maya walked slowly between the rows so she would not step on the young lettuce plants. Then she heard a soft rustle near the compost bin.
- ② "Is someone there?" Maya asked. She stopped and listened. The rustle came again, louder this time. A brown rabbit hopped from behind the bin and froze. Maya whispered, "Do not worry. I am only getting water." The rabbit twitched its nose, then leaped through a gap in the fence. Maya let out a quick breath. "What a surprise!"
- ③ At recess, Maya told her friend Luis about the rabbit. Luis leaned closer as she described its quick hop and bright eyes. "Did it eat any plants?" he asked. Maya shook her head. "No, it hurried away." They decided to place a small sign by the gap: Please close the garden gate. A closed gate could help keep the seedlings safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Find the sentence that says Maya walked slowly. How should you change your reading rate for that sentence?

- 2 When you read "Is someone there?" what should your voice do at the end?

- 3 Which two words tell you to use a quiet voice before Maya speaks to the rabbit?

- 4 Read the garden sign exactly as it appears in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal you see or imagine. Use a question mark in one sentence and an exclamation mark in the other, then read the sentences aloud with a voice that matches each punctuation mark.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each question mark and exclamation mark, and underline each comma. Use your marks to pause or change your voice as you read. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find the sentence that says Maya walked slowly. How should you change your reading rate for that sentence?	Read more slowly.
2	When you read "Is someone there?" what should your voice do at the end?	Raise at the end because it is a question.
3	Which two words tell you to use a quiet voice before Maya speaks to the rabbit?	Maya whispered.
4	Read the garden sign exactly as it appears in the passage.	Please close the garden gate.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Will the turtle reach the pond? It made it across the log!

Accept responses that use exactly two sentences, with a question mark in one and an exclamation mark in the other. Listen for a rising question voice and an excited or strong voice for the exclamation.