

# Voices by the Creek

Notice who tells the story and who speaks in the poem.

**4.RL.2.C** "Identify the narrator of a story and the speaker of a poem."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two pronouns that show who tells the story in paragraphs 1 and 2. Circle two words or phrases in the poem that help you identify its speaker.

### Firefly Evening

- ① I am Nia. On Friday evening, I carried my jar to the creek behind the library. My friend Luis had punched tiny holes in the lid, and we hoped to watch fireflies safely before letting them go. I held the jar low over the grass while Luis pointed to the first green flash near a smooth stone by the water at sunset.
- ② I wanted to catch it, but I remembered that the firefly needed air and freedom. When its light landed on a leaf, I placed the open jar nearby. The firefly crawled inside for a moment. Then I lifted the lid, and it rose into the darkening sky. Luis and I watched until its light disappeared.
- ③ Later, Luis read this poem aloud: I wake when daylight slips away. My lamp is small, but bright. I float above the creek at night and flash my secret ray. Do not close me in a jar. I need the open air. I dance where tall green grasses are and glow without a care.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Who narrates the story in paragraphs 1 and 2?

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2 Which two pronouns show that the narrator is part of the story?

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3 Who is the speaker of the poem?

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4 Write one line from the poem that helps show who the speaker is.

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-line poem spoken by an animal, insect, or object. Write "Speaker:" and name the speaker, then circle one word in your poem that gives a clue about who is speaking.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline two pronouns that show who tells the story in paragraphs 1 and 2. Circle two words or phrases in the poem that help you identify its speaker. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                         | ANSWER                                                                |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Who narrates the story in paragraphs 1 and 2?                    | <b>Nia narrates the story.</b>                                        |
| 2 | Which two pronouns show that the narrator is part of the story?  | <b>"I" and "my."</b>                                                  |
| 3 | Who is the speaker of the poem?                                  | <b>A firefly is the speaker.</b>                                      |
| 4 | Write one line from the poem that helps show who the speaker is. | <b>Answers may vary. Example: "I float above the creek at night."</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Speaker: an owl I rest in an oak tree. My [circle: wings] carry me at night. I hunt when fields grow quiet. At dawn, I call from a branch.

Accept Nia as the narrator and a firefly as the poem's speaker. For the open task, accept any clear speaker name and a circled clue word that matches the poem's speaker.