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?

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

3. Who is the speaker of the poem?

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

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.

ANSWER KEY

Voices by the Creek

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.2.C

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?	**Nia narrates the story.**
2	Which two pronouns show that the narrator is part of the story?	**"I" and "my."**
3	Who is the speaker of the poem?	**A firefly is the speaker.**
4	Write one line from the poem that helps show who the speaker is.	**Answers may vary. Example: "I float above the creek at night."**

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.