Storm Voice Map

Mark a poem to plan a meaningful recitation.

7.C.2.B "Memorize and recite a poem demonstrating inflection and meaningful expression that is appropriate to the tone and voice of the selection."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words you will stress and circle two punctuation marks where you will pause. Use your marks to match your voice to the poem's changing mood.

After the Dry Spell

1 All afternoon, the field held its breath, grass bent low beneath a copper sky. At the fence, one loose gate tapped, tapped, as if it knew a secret in the wind. I counted the dark birds crossing east, their wings like small, hurried flags. Then thunder spoke beyond the water tower, not angry yet, but deep and close. I stood still, listening for the first drop, while dust lifted softly around my shoes by the road.

2 First, one bright coin struck the porch rail. Then ten more answered, quick and clear. The dry garden opened every leaf, and the air smelled green, sharp, alive. I laughed, though rain ran down my face, because the thirsty rows were drinking. Across the yard, my brother shouted, "Fill the buckets. Set them near the beans." His voice rose over the drumming roof, and even the old gate stopped tapping at last in the wind.

3 By sunset, the storm had wandered west. Puddles held pieces of gold cloud. From the porch, I watched the field breathe out, each blade standing straighter than before. The silence was not empty now. It carried frogs, dripping branches, distant wheels, and the patient sound of water sinking. Tomorrow, we will pull the weeds again, check the beans, and mend the loose gate. Tonight, I will remember how the sky gave its hard voice, then softened into song.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should your voice sound when you read “not angry yet, but deep and close”? Name two vocal choices and explain them.

2. When you move from “First” to “Then ten more,” how should your pace and pitch change?

3. How should you deliver your brother’s words, “Fill the buckets. Set them near the beans”? Use two clues from the poem.

4. What tone should your voice have for the final line? Give one phrase that supports your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one stanza to memorize and recite aloud without looking at the poem. Before you recite, write exactly four performance notes, one each for volume, pace, pause, and emphasis.

ANSWER KEY

Storm Voice Map

GRADE 7 · 7.C.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words you will stress and circle two punctuation marks where you will pause. Use your marks to match your voice to the poem's changing mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should your voice sound when you read "not angry yet, but deep and close"? Name two vocal choices and explain them.	**Use a low, slower, controlled voice, stressing "deep" and "close," because the thunder is near but not angry.**
2	When you move from "First" to "Then ten more," how should your pace and pitch change?	**Begin measured, then become quicker and slightly brighter as more raindrops arrive.**
3	How should you deliver your brother's words, "Fill the buckets. Set them near the beans"? Use two clues from the poem.	**Read loudly and urgently. The brother "shouted," and the short commands show that he wants quick action.**
4	What tone should your voice have for the final line? Give one phrase that supports your choice.	**Use a calm, warm, reflective tone. The phrase "softened into song" supports this choice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Volume: Begin softly and make "hard voice" firm. Pace: Slow down on "The silence was not empty now." Pause: Pause after "Tomorrow" before naming the chores. Emphasis: Stress "softened into song" to end warmly.

Accept vocal choices that are supported by the poem's word choice, punctuation, actions, and changing mood. For the recitation, listen for accurate memorization and expression that fits the selected stanza.