# Seeds and Speaking

Mark how a model text uses dialogue and direct quotations.

**8.LU.2.B** "Use and punctuate dialogue and direct quotations appropriately in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline every exact spoken or quoted word in the passage. Circle the quotation marks and the commas, question marks, or periods that punctuate each quotation.

### The Seed Exchange Podcast

1 On Saturday, Maya visited the city library to record a short podcast about its seed exchange. Librarian Mr. Chen opened a drawer filled with tiny paper packets. "Each packet holds a chance to grow food," he said. Maya held up a packet of basil and asked, "May I take one home?" "Yes," Mr. Chen replied, "but bring seeds back after your plants grow." Maya wrote his words in her notebook before turning on the recorder.

2 During the recording, Maya explained that the library gives gardeners a way to share local seeds. Mr. Chen pointed to a sign near the door. "Please label each packet with the plant's name and year," it read. Maya asked why the year mattered. "Old seeds may not sprout as well," he explained. Then she quoted his earlier advice for listeners: "Bring back seeds from your healthiest plants." The quote helped her report his exact words, rather than merely summarize them.

3 Before leaving, Maya checked the audio with her partner, Luis. "Did we include Mr. Chen's advice about labels?" Luis asked. Maya listened again and answered, "We did, and we also explained the seed exchange." Luis smiled. "Our ending needs one clear message," he said. Maya suggested, "Tell listeners to borrow a packet, plant it, and save seeds to share." They chose that ending because it connected the interview to a simple action. Their finished podcast credited Mr. Chen and invited neighbors to visit the library.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, copy Maya's spoken question exactly, including its punctuation.

2. In paragraph 1, what words identify Mr. Chen as the speaker in the sentence that begins "Yes,"?

3. In paragraph 2, where is the period placed in the quotation that begins "Bring back seeds"?

4. In paragraph 3, what words introduce Maya's direct quotation that begins "Tell listeners"?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini scene about two people planning an outdoor activity. Include two lines of dialogue from two different speakers and one direct quotation from a sign, book, or announcement, using quotation marks and punctuation correctly.

ANSWER KEY

# Seeds and Speaking

GRADE 8 · 8.LU.2.B

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every exact spoken or quoted word in the passage. Circle the quotation marks and the commas, question marks, or periods that punctuate each quotation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | In paragraph 1, copy Maya's spoken question exactly, including its punctuation. | **"May I take one home?"** |
| 2 | In paragraph 1, what words identify Mr. Chen as the speaker in the sentence that begins "Yes,"? | **Mr. Chen replied** |
| 3 | In paragraph 2, where is the period placed in the quotation that begins "Bring back seeds"? | **The period is inside the closing quotation mark, after "plants."** |
| 4 | In paragraph 3, what words introduce Maya's direct quotation that begins "Tell listeners"? | **Maya suggested,** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

"Did you read the park sign?" Nora asked. "I did, and it says, 'Stay on marked paths,'" Eli replied. Nora nodded and said, "That rule keeps hikers safe."

Accept equivalent wording for questions 2 and 4 if students identify the correct speaker tags. In the writing task, check for three sentences, two speakers using dialogue, a quoted source, and correct placement of quotation marks and end punctuation.