Read With Accuracy and Fluency

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle how a reader should say each line.

READ THIS FIRST

Sung-min and the Line Breaks

The Willow Street Library held a poetry reading every spring. This year, Sung-min signed up to read a poem he had written about the city bus. He practiced it at home in front of his older sister, Ji-woo.

His poem looked like this on the page:

The number nine bus
rolls down Pine Street at seven,
past the bakery
with its windows full of steam,
and stops for me.

Sung-min read it aloud. He stopped at the end of every line, like a robot taking a breath. "The number nine bus. Rolls down Pine Street at seven. Past the bakery. With its windows full of steam. And stops for me."

Ji-woo tilted her head. "It sounds choppy," she said. "Like the bus keeps breaking down."

Sung-min frowned. "But each line ends there. Aren't I supposed to stop?"

"Not always," Ji-woo said. "Look at the punctuation, not just the ends of the lines. If there is no comma or period, keep your voice going into the next line."

Sung-min studied the page. The first line had no mark at the end. Neither did the third line. He tried again. This time, the first two lines came out as one smooth group. He paused briefly at the comma after "seven." Then he read "past the bakery with its windows full of steam" without stopping in the middle.

"Better," Ji-woo said. "Now, what is the most important part?"

Sung-min thought about it. The whole poem was about waiting for the bus. The best part was when it finally came for him. He decided to slow down on the last line and let it land gently, like a bus pulling up to the curb. He practiced the new way five more times that week, until his voice knew where to keep going.

On the night of the reading, the library was crowded. Sung-min's hands shook a little as he walked to the microphone. Then he pictured the bus rolling smoothly down Pine Street. He read the first lines in long, flowing phrases. At the last line, he slowed down. "And stops... for me."

For a moment, the room was quiet. Then Mrs. Haddad, the librarian, began to clap, and everyone joined in.

Afterward, an older man came up to him. "I ride the number nine every day," he said. "I never thought of it as a poem before."

Sung-min smiled all the way home. On the bus the next morning, he sat by the window and watched Pine Street roll past. In his head, he read the poem again, in one long, smooth breath.

1. How should a reader say Sung-min's question 'Aren’t I supposed to stop?'
   in a proud voice that drops at the end
   in an angry voice that gets louder
   in a sleepy voice that stays flat
   in a puzzled voice that rises at the end

2. How should a reader say the man's words 'I never thought of it as a poem before.'?
   in a surprised, thoughtful voice
   in a scared, whispering voice
   in an angry, complaining voice
   in a bored, flat voice

3. How should a reader say the last line, 'And stops... for me.'?
   quickly and loudly, with no pause at all
   slowly and gently, with a pause at the dots
   in a flat voice, one word at a time
   in a rushing voice, like the bus driving away

4. How should a reader say the first two lines, 'The number nine bus rolls down Pine Street at seven,'?
   one word at a time, like a robot taking a breath
   with a long pause after 'Pine' and 'Street'
   as one smooth group, pausing only at the comma
   with a full stop at the end of each line

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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