

Marking Chart

Text Signal		Marking	What to Do While Reading
,	Comma	/	pause briefly
.	Period	//	pause
?	Question Mark		raise your tone at the end of the line
!	Exclamation Point		read with excitement or other emotion
" ___ "	Quotation Marks		read in the voice of whoever is speaking
...	Ellipsis		trail off, as if there is more to the passage
		underline to highlight points you want to emphasize 	alter your voice to emphasize the point
			slow down
			speed up

Name: _____ Date: _____

Drawing Contest

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

Jennifer couldn't believe her luck! She had never won anything in her life, and she'd just won the drawing contest at school. No doubt she worked hard to earn it, spending hours on her drawing of a new school mascot, but she was elated that she had actually won! Who would have thought? Now she just had to decide how to spend her winning money: 100 dollars! She knew she'd share it with her best friends Katie, Jackie, and Sarah. She couldn't wait to tell them the good news, and she ran towards the playground.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Spooky House

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

Slowly, Casey opened the door to the empty house. None of his friends had ever before been brave enough to actually go in the spooky house in the neighborhood, and now, here he was, sun going down, going in all by himself. He was surprised to find the door unlocked, and his friends were cheering him on from the yard, but that didn't help to calm his nerves. As soon as Casey entered, there was a strong and horrible smell, and he saw something dart in front of his eyes. He stepped back and glanced around, ready to bolt for the door at any second. His eyes focused in on something in the corner that seemed to be moving. He could see it wasn't a person, but an animal. He slowly approached and could see a mama cat and four very small kittens. The mama cat seemed protective and glared at Casey until he put his hand out and just waited for her to come to him. Casey could see the kittens were skinny and needed food. What a surprise it would be to his friends to come out the door with kittens instead of running and screaming!

Name: _____ Date: _____

José's First Day

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

This was José's first day of school. All the other students had started months ago, because their parents had normal jobs, and those kids had a normal life. But, not José. His dad was in the military, and it seemed lately they were moving every few months. José knew he wouldn't be able to make friends and keep them, so he wasn't even going to try. He knew better. Going to school, doing what they told him, and getting home were his only goals these days. José entered the classroom and sat down, head down on the desk, just waiting for the day to be over. He could see another student stop by his desk, so he glanced up. He was shocked to see Mason, a kid he recognized from fourth grade! Mason's mom was in the military, too, so Mason knew just what he was going through. What a coincidence that here they were, together again in the same class, two states away! José realized that sometimes, even when things seem bad, there might be something good just around the corner!

Name: _____ Date: _____

My Brother

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

I love my brother, but sometimes we just don't get along at all. He is always stealing things from me. He calls it borrowing. "Sis, can I borrow two dollars from you? I'm going with my friends to get a hamburger." "No you can't, Steven," I say. "Not until you pay me the ten dollars you already owe me." He just shrugs and looks at me a little funny. Then, as soon as I walk out of my bedroom, he charges in, grabs my money, and shouts to me as he runs outside the house to meet his friends, "Now I owe you twelve!" Did I really say I love my brother?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Great Day!

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

“Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this afternoon’s baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.”

It was finally happening! My family was actually going to a Major League Baseball game. When we walked into the stadium, it was like walking into another country! The field was the greenest green I have ever seen. There must have been 20,000 fans in the stands. The cheering was so loud we could barely talk with one another. We had to shout! And I never had a hot dog that tasted so good. What a great day! Best of all, my favorite team won! “Dad, when can we go to another game?”

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Dentist

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

“Mom,” I cried out, “do I really have to go to the dentist today? Why not tomorrow?” Last week I had my regular checkup, and my dentist, Dr. Korb, said I had a cavity that needed filling. I hate going to the dentist. Dr. Korb is really nice, but it is just so hard to sit there with your mouth open for 30 minutes or more. And then, once your mouth is open, she sticks all the instruments in to clean, scrape, drill, and fill. Mom replied, “Shawn, you know you have to get that tooth of yours fixed as soon as possible. You don’t want it to get worse, do you? We’re leaving in 15 minutes, young man. You better be ready.” And so, I prepared to meet my doom!

Name: _____ Date: _____

My Best Friend

Directions: Using the Marking Chart as a reference, mark the text below to remind yourself when and how to read it aloud with expression. Then practice reading it aloud, paying special attention to your notes.

I couldn't believe it when Thomas told me he was moving with his family to California. Thomas was my best friend! We had known each other since kindergarten, and now he was moving away. Why would his family do this? The next day, as we walked to school, Thomas told me more about his family's move. He said that his father had gotten a new job in California that paid more than he made here. Thomas promised that he would write to me regularly. He said that I might even be able to visit him once his family is settled in their new home. Thomas will be moving soon. What am I going to do?