

Name _____

Reader's Fluency Marks

Directions: Read the passage silently once to understand the meaning. On your copy, **mark the text** before reading aloud:



- Draw a **slash (/)** where you would pause.
- Circle or underline **words for emphasis**.
- Use arrows (↑ or ↓) to remind yourself to raise or lower your voice for intonation.

After marking, practice reading the passage aloud smoothly with expression. Answer the comprehension questions after your reading.

The storm clouds gathered quickly over the horizon, and the sky darkened to a deep gray. A sudden clap of thunder made the windows rattle in their frames, startling the children inside the cottage. Lightning flashed across the fields, followed by the sound of heavy rain pounding the roof. Despite the storm's strength, the family gathered in the living room, lighting candles and telling stories to distract themselves. The youngest child clutched a blanket tightly, but soon began to smile as laughter filled the room. The storm raged outside, but inside the cottage, warmth and comfort grew stronger with every shared tale.

1. What weather events are described in the passage?
2. How did the family respond to the storm?
3. What detail shows the youngest child was first afraid, then comforted?
4. What contrast does the author create between the storm outside and the cottage inside?