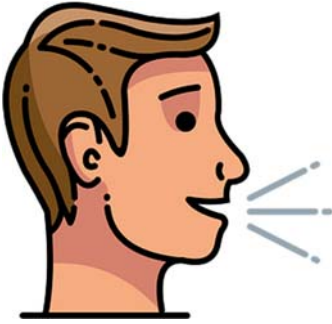


Name _____



Expressive Exchange

Directions: Read the story passage silently to understand what is happening. With a partner or small group, assign characters and rehearse reading their lines aloud. Focus on:

- **Character voices** (change pitch, tone, or speed to match each speaker).
- **Conversational flow** (listen and respond naturally, as in real conversation).
- **Expression** (show emotions like curiosity, worry, or excitement).

After rehearsing, reread the passage with smoother pacing and stronger expression. Answer the comprehension questions after your practice.

Maya peered out the window as the rain poured down. “Looks like our picnic is ruined,” she sighed. “Not so fast,” said Jordan with a grin. “We can spread the blanket in the living room instead. Sandwiches taste just as good indoors.”

“But it won’t be the same,” Maya replied, frowning. “I wanted to sit under the oak tree and listen to the birds.” Jordan shrugged. “Then let’s pretend! I’ll play some bird songs on my phone, and we can open the windows for fresh air.” Maya laughed, shaking her head. “You always find a way to turn things around.”

“Of course,” Jordan said proudly. “That’s what friends are for.”

Questions

1. What problem do Maya and Jordan face at the start of the story?
2. How does Jordan suggest solving the problem?
3. What detail shows that Maya changes her mood during the dialogue?
4. How does the conversation reveal the strength of their friendship?