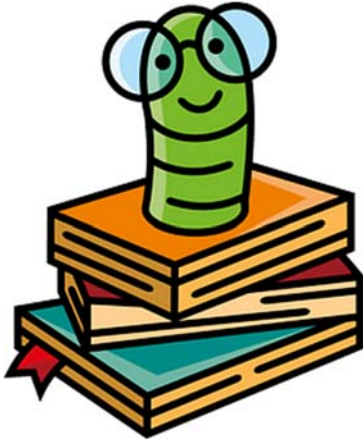


Name _____



Breaks With Meaning

Directions: Read the passage below aloud. Notice how it has been divided into **meaningful chunks**. Pause slightly at the breaks, but do not stop as if they are full sentences. Focus on keeping your **voice smooth** and **phrases connected**. After reading aloud, answer the comprehension questions.

The old clock tower / stood at the center of the town square, / its hands
frozen at midnight / for nearly twenty years. / No one knew exactly / why the
clock had stopped, / though stories and rumors / filled the market stalls each
morning. / Some said a lightning strike / had damaged its gears, / while others
whispered / that it stopped on purpose / to mark a forgotten tragedy. / Despite
the mystery, / children played near its steps, / using the tower's shadow / to mark
the hours of their games. / Visitors often paused / to take pictures of the tower, /
fascinated by its weathered stones / and unmoving face. / For the townspeople,
/ the frozen clock was more / than just a landmark— / it was a reminder / of history,
mystery, / and time itself. /

Questions

1. How long has the clock tower been stopped?
2. What are two different explanations people give for the broken clock?
3. How do children use the tower even though the clock no longer works?
4. Why might the clock be considered more than just a landmark?