

Name _____



Backpack Beat

Directions: Read the paragraph below silently one time. Read the paragraph aloud, listening for the words that seem the most important. Underline or highlight the **key words** that should be stressed to give the reading a natural rhythm. Practice reading the paragraph aloud two or three times, making sure you put emphasis on the important words. After practicing, answer the comprehension questions.

Maya packed her backpack quickly because the school bus was almost at the corner. She zipped up her jacket, grabbed her lunchbox, and ran out the door. The morning air was chilly, and her breath made little clouds as she hurried down the street. When the bus finally stopped, she climbed on and smiled at her best friend, who had saved her a seat.

Student Task

- Mark the **key words** you think should be stressed in each sentence.
- Practice reading with natural rhythm, giving voice to the stressed words.

Follow-Up Questions

1. What was Maya carrying as she ran out the door?

2. What did the chilly air do when she breathed out?

3. Who had saved her a seat on the bus?
