In Your Own Words

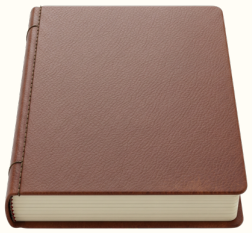
Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

In Your Own Words



Priya's class was giving reports on ocean animals, and Priya had chosen sea turtles. She found a big library book full of facts and copied two whole pages into her notebook, word for word.

The day before her report, she practised reading it to her teacher, Mr. Banks. "Sea turtles are reptiles that have inhabited the oceans for millions of years," she read slowly. She stumbled over the long words. "What does inhabited mean?" Mr. Banks asked kindly. Priya didn't know.

"A report is not just reading what someone else wrote," Mr. Banks said. "It's sharing what you learned, in your own words. Try this: read one part, close the book, and tell me what you remember."

Priya read about how sea turtles lay their eggs. Then she closed the book. "The mother turtle swims to the beach at night," she said. "She digs a hole in the sand with her flippers, lays her eggs and covers them up. Then she goes back to the sea."

"That's perfect," said Mr. Banks. "Now you sound like an expert."

That night, Priya rewrote her whole report this way. The next day, she spoke clearly and looked at her classmates instead of her notebook. When she finished, everyone had questions, and she could answer every one.

In Your Own Words

Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What animal was Priya's report about?

(a) Sea turtles
(b) Dolphins
(c) Sharks

2. What did Priya do first with the facts?

(a) She drew pictures.
(b) She copied two pages word for word.
(c) She asked a friend.

3. What advice did Mr. Banks give?

(a) Read faster
(b) Read a part, close the book, and tell what you remember
(c) Copy more pages

4. How did Priya's report go in the end?

(a) She forgot everything.
(b) She spoke clearly and answered every question.
(c) She read it from the book.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Why was reading the copied report a problem for Priya?**

2. **What does it mean to say something in your own words?**

3. **Why do you think everyone had questions at the end?**

Answer Key

In Your Own Words · Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

1. What animal was Priya's report about?

- a **Sea turtles**
- b Dolphins
- c Sharks

2. What did Priya do first with the facts?

- a She drew pictures.
- b **She copied two pages word for word.**
- c She asked a friend.

3. What advice did Mr. Banks give?

- a Read faster
- b **Read a part, close the book, and tell what you remember**
- c Copy more pages

4. How did Priya's report go in the end?

- a She forgot everything.
- b **She spoke clearly and answered every question.**
- c She read it from the book.

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Why was reading the copied report a problem for Priya?**
   She stumbled over long words and did not understand all of them, like inhabited.
2. **What does it mean to say something in your own words?**
   It means explaining what you learned using your own way of talking instead of copying the author's words.
3. **Why do you think everyone had questions at the end?**
   Priya sounded like an expert and made sea turtles interesting, so her classmates wanted to learn more.