Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

Circle group

Mia heard a squeak in the night. Squeak! It came from the stairs.

In the morning, Mia stepped on the first stair. No sound. She stepped on the second. No sound. The third was quiet.

She stepped on the fourth stair. Squeak!

Mia looked in a gap under the stair. A toy mouse was stuck there! It was her baby brother's. The stair pressed it, and it squeaked.

Mia gave the mouse back. The baby grinned.

## Questions

**1. Where did the squeak come from?**

_____

_____

**2. Which stair made the squeak?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Mia find in the gap?**

_____

_____

**4. Whose toy was it?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the stair squeak?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

squeak: a short, high sound
stair: one step in a set of steps
gap: a small space between two things

grin: a big smile
toy: a thing that a child plays with

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

Triangle group

Mia heard a squeak in the night. Squeak! Squeak! It came from the stairs.

In the morning, Mia went up and down. She stepped on the first stair. No sound. She stepped on the second stair. No sound. The third stair was quiet too.

Then she stepped on the fourth stair. Squeak!

Mia got down low. She looked into a gap under the stair. Something was stuck there. It was a toy mouse! Her baby brother had lost it. Each time she stepped, the stair pressed the mouse, and it squeaked.

Mia gave the mouse back. The baby gave a big grin.

## Questions

**1. Where did the squeak come from?**

_____

_____

**2. Which stair made the squeak?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Mia find in the gap?**

_____

_____

**4. Whose toy was it?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the stair squeak when Mia stepped on it?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

squeak: a short, high sound
stair: one step in a set of steps
gap: a small space between two things
grin: a big smile
toy: a thing that a child plays with

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

Square group

In the middle of the night, Mia heard a strange squeak coming from the stairs. Squeak! Squeak!

The next morning, she decided to investigate. She stepped on the first stair, and it made no noise. She stepped on the second stair, and the third one, and both stayed completely silent.

But when she stepped on the fourth stair, it squeaked loudly.

Mia crouched down and peered into a narrow gap beneath the stair. Something was wedged inside. It was a toy mouse that her baby brother had lost! Every time she stepped down, the stair squashed the mouse, and out came the squeak.

Mia handed the toy back, and the baby gave a huge grin.

## Questions

**1. Where did the strange squeak come from?**

_____

_____

**2. Which stair made the loud squeak?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Mia discover wedged in the gap?**

_____

_____

**4. Whose toy mouse was it?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the stair squeak whenever Mia stepped on it?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

squeak: a short, high sound
stair: one step in a set of steps
gap: a small space between two things
grin: a big smile
toy: a thing that a child plays with

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

Easier · 76 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.8

1. The stairs.
2. The fourth stair.
3. A toy mouse.
4. Her baby brother's.
5. It pressed the toy mouse.

### Triangle: The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

This passage · 102 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.6

1. The stairs.
2. The fourth stair.
3. A toy mouse.
4. Her baby brother's toy.
5. The stair pressed the toy mouse under it.

### Square: The Fourth Stair Says Squeak

Harder · 115 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. From the stairs.
2. The fourth stair.
3. A toy mouse.
4. Her baby brother's.
5. The stair squashed the toy mouse underneath, and the mouse squeaked.