Name: _____ Date: _____

Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

Circle group

Zed went to the pier with his aunt. The wind was strong. Whoosh! It took his straw hat. The hat sailed over the rail.

Zed ran to the edge. The hat landed on a post, far below. His arm was too short.

"Do not lean," said his aunt. "Let us ask for help."

A man had a long net. He reached up. He tapped the hat. It fell into the net.

"Here you go," he said. Zed tied the hat string under his chin. The wind could not take it again.

Questions

1. Where did Zed go with his aunt?

_____

_____

2. What did the wind take?

_____

_____

3. Where did the hat land?

_____

_____

4. What did the man use to get the hat?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zed tie the string under his chin?

_____

_____

Words to know

pier: a long dock that reaches out over water
rail: a bar to hold on to so you do not fall
straw: dry stems that are woven into hats
net: a bag made of string with holes

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: _____

Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

Triangle group

Zed went to the pier with his aunt. The wind was strong. Whoosh! It took his straw hat. The hat sailed over the rail.

Zed ran to the edge. The hat spun down and landed on a post, far below. It was too far for his arm.

"Do not lean," said his aunt. "Let us ask for help."

A man in a boat hat had a long net. He reached up and tapped the hat. It dropped into the net.

"Here you go," he said. Zed tied the string of his hat under his chin. The wind could not take it again.

Questions

1. Where did Zed go with his aunt?

_____

_____

2. What did the wind take?

_____

_____

3. Where did the hat land?

_____

_____

4. What did the man use to get the hat?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zed tie the string under his chin?

_____

_____

Words to know

pier: a long dock that reaches out over water
rail: a bar to hold on to so you do not fall
straw: dry stems that are woven into hats
net: a bag made of string with holes

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: _____

Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

Square group

Zed visited the pier with his aunt on a blustery afternoon. Whoosh! A strong gust snatched the straw hat off his head, and it sailed over the rail.

Zed dashed to the edge. The hat spun downward and landed on a wooden post, far below. It was much too far for him to reach.

"Do not lean over," his aunt warned. "Let us ask someone for help."

A man wearing a boat hat had a long net. He stretched up, gave the hat a gentle tap, and it dropped neatly into the net.

"Here you go," he said. Zed tied the string of his hat firmly under his chin, so the wind could never steal it again.

Questions

1. Who did Zed visit the pier with?

_____

_____

2. What did the strong gust snatch away?

_____

_____

3. Where did the hat land?

_____

_____

4. What did the man use to rescue the hat?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zed tie the string under his chin?

_____

_____

Words to know

pier: a long dock that reaches out over water
rail: a bar to hold on to so you do not fall
straw: dry stems that are woven into hats
net: a bag made of string with holes

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: Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

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

Circle: Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

Easier · 91 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.9

1. To the pier.
2. Zed's straw hat.
3. On a post, far below.
4. A long net.
5. So the wind could not take the hat.

Triangle: Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

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

1. To the pier.
2. Zed's straw hat.
3. On a post, far below.
4. A long net.
5. So the wind could not take the hat again.

Square: Zed's Hat Sails Off the Pier

Harder · 117 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. His aunt.
2. Zed's straw hat.
3. On a wooden post, far below.
4. A long net.
5. So the wind could not steal the hat again.