Name: _____ Date: _____

Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

Circle group

Grandpa got a new phone. He wanted to send a message to Ben. But his thumbs were big. The letters were small.

"Hello Ben," Grandpa typed. The phone said, "Hippo bun."

Ben laughed. Then he stopped. Grandpa looked sad.

"I am no good at this," said Grandpa.

Ben sat beside him. "You can fix a bike. You can bake a pie. This is just new."

He showed Grandpa a picture of a microphone. "Tap here and talk."

Grandpa tapped. "Hello, Ben," he said. The words were right.

"Hippo bun," said Ben, "is my new name for you."

Grandpa chuckled.

Questions

1. Why was typing hard for Grandpa?

_____

_____

2. What did the phone type?

_____

_____

3. What two things could Grandpa do well?

_____

_____

4. How did Ben help Grandpa?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ben stop laughing?

_____

_____

Words to know

thumbs: the short, thick fingers on each hand
microphone: a tool that picks up your voice
chuckled: laughed in a soft, quiet way

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: _____

Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

Triangle group

Grandpa got a new phone. He wanted to send a message to Ben. But his thumbs were big, and the letters were small.

"Hello Ben," Grandpa tried to type. The phone said, "Hippo bun."

Ben read it and laughed. Then he stopped laughing. Grandpa looked sad. His big thumbs hung in the air.

"I am no good at this," said Grandpa.

Ben sat down beside him. "You are good at lots of things," he said. "You can fix a bike and bake a pie. This is just new."

He showed Grandpa a tiny picture of a microphone. "Tap here and talk. The phone will type for you."

Grandpa tapped. "Hello, Ben," he said, loud and clear. The words showed up just right.

"Hippo bun," said Ben, grinning, "is my new favorite name for you."

Grandpa chuckled all the way to the kitchen.

Questions

1. Why was it hard for Grandpa to type?

_____

_____

2. What did the phone type instead of Hello Ben?

_____

_____

3. What two things could Grandpa already do well?

_____

_____

4. How did Ben help Grandpa send a message?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ben stop laughing?

_____

_____

Words to know

thumbs: the short, thick fingers on each hand
microphone: a tool that picks up your voice
grinning: smiling with a wide, happy face
chuckled: laughed in a soft, quiet way

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: _____

Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

Square group

Grandpa received a brand new phone, and he was eager to send a message to Ben. Unfortunately, his thumbs were large and the letters on the screen were tiny.

"Hello Ben," Grandpa tried to type. The phone announced, "Hippo bun."

Ben read it and burst out laughing. Then he suddenly stopped, because Grandpa looked quite sad. His big thumbs hovered helplessly above the screen.

"I am simply no good at this," said Grandpa.

Ben sat down beside him. "You are good at plenty of things," he said. "You can fix a bicycle and you can bake a perfect pie. This is just something new."

He showed Grandpa a tiny picture of a microphone. "Tap here and start talking, and the phone will type the words for you."

Grandpa tapped it. "Hello, Ben," he said, loud and clear. The words appeared exactly right.

"Hippo bun," said Ben, grinning, "is my new favorite name for you."

Grandpa chuckled all the way into the kitchen.

Questions

1. Why did Grandpa have trouble typing on his new phone?

_____

_____

2. What did the phone type in place of Hello Ben?

_____

_____

3. What two things could Grandpa already do well?

_____

_____

4. How did Ben help Grandpa send his message?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ben suddenly stop laughing?

_____

_____

Words to know

thumbs: the short, thick fingers on each hand
microphone: a tool that picks up your voice
grinning: smiling with a wide, happy face
chuckled: laughed in a soft, quiet way

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: Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

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

Circle: Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

Easier · 99 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. His thumbs were big and the letters were small.
2. Hippo bun.
3. Fix a bike and bake a pie.
4. He showed him how to talk so the phone would type.
5. Grandpa looked sad, and Ben wanted to be kind.

Triangle: Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

This passage · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.7

1. His thumbs were big and the letters were small.
2. Hippo bun.
3. Fix a bike and bake a pie.
4. He showed him how to talk into the phone so it would type the words.
5. He saw that Grandpa looked sad, and he wanted to be kind.

Square: Grandpa's Thumbs Are Too Big

Harder · 162 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. His thumbs were large and the letters were tiny.
2. Hippo bun.
3. Fix a bicycle and bake a perfect pie.
4. He showed him how to talk into the phone so it would type the words.
5. He noticed that Grandpa looked sad, and he decided to be kind.