Name: _____ Date: _____

Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

Circle group

Gus took every word the way it sounded.

One morning, his dad said, "Hold your horses, Gus. We will go soon."

Gus had no horses. So he ran to the barn and got two. He stood in the yard and held their ropes tight.

Then his sister said, "Break a leg at the school play!"

Gus froze. "No!" he cried.

"It just means good luck," said his sister, grinning.

At lunch, his mom said, "It is raining cats and dogs." Gus ran to the window. He saw only puddles.

"Phew," he said. After that, Gus asked what a saying meant before he got worried.

Questions

1. What did Gus's dad tell him to hold?

_____

_____

2. Where did Gus get two horses?

_____

_____

3. What does 'break a leg' mean?

_____

_____

4. What did Gus see out the window?

_____

_____

5. Why did Gus get worried so often?

_____

_____

Words to know

froze: stopped moving all at once
grinning: smiling with a wide, happy face
saying: a short group of words with a special meaning

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: _____

Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

Triangle group

Gus took every word he heard exactly the way it sounded.

One morning, his dad said, "Hold your horses, Gus. We will leave soon."

Gus looked around. He did not have any horses. So he ran to the barn and borrowed two. He stood in the yard and held their ropes very tight.

Then his sister said, "Break a leg at the school play!"

Gus froze. "Please, no!" he cried.

"It just means good luck," said his sister, grinning.

At lunch, his mom said, "It is raining cats and dogs." Gus raced to the window. He saw only puddles.

"Phew," he said. "Nobody is falling from the sky." After that, Gus asked what a saying meant before he got worried or went to find a horse.

Questions

1. What did Gus's dad tell him to hold?

_____

_____

2. Where did Gus get two horses?

_____

_____

3. What does 'break a leg' really mean?

_____

_____

4. What did Gus see out the window?

_____

_____

5. Why did Gus get worried so often?

_____

Words to know

borrowed: took something for a short time to give back later
froze: stopped moving all at once
grinning: smiling with a wide, happy face
saying: a short group of words with a special meaning

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: _____

Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

Square group

Gus always understood every word in exactly the way it sounded, even when a saying meant something different.

One morning, his dad said, "Hold your horses, Gus. We will be leaving shortly."

Gus looked around the yard. He did not own any horses. So he hurried to the barn, borrowed two of them, and stood in the yard gripping their ropes as tightly as he could.

Then his sister called, "Break a leg at the school play tonight!"

Gus froze in horror. "Please, no!" he cried.

"It only means good luck," said his sister, grinning from ear to ear.

At lunchtime, his mom remarked, "It is raining cats and dogs out there." Gus dashed to the window. All he saw were puddles.

"Phew," he said. "Nobody is falling from the sky." From then on, Gus asked what a saying meant before he started to worry or went looking for a horse.

Questions

1. What did Gus's dad tell him to hold when they were leaving?

_____

_____

2. Where did Gus borrow his two horses?

_____

_____

3. What does the saying 'break a leg' really mean?

_____

_____

4. What did Gus see when he dashed to the window?

_____

_____

5. Why did Gus end up worried so often?

_____

_____

Words to know

borrowed: took something for a short time to give back later
froze: stopped moving all at once
grinning: smiling with a wide, happy face
saying: a short group of words with a special meaning

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: Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

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

Circle: Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

Easier · 104 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.7

1. His horses.
2. From the barn.
3. It means good luck.
4. Only puddles.
5. He thought sayings meant just what the words said.

Triangle: Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

This passage · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. His horses.
2. He borrowed them from the barn.
3. It means good luck.
4. Only puddles.
5. He thought sayings meant exactly what the words said.

Square: Gus Hears Hold Your Horses

Harder · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. His horses.
2. From the barn.
3. It only means good luck.
4. Only puddles.
5. He understood sayings to mean exactly what the words said.