Name: _____ Date: _____

Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

Circle group

Some people cannot hear. Many of them talk with their hands. This is sign language. Each sign has a shape and a move. Signs make words.

Say a person who signs goes to a meeting. The others do not sign. An interpreter can help. She listens to the words. Then she signs them. Now everyone can follow. When the person signs back, she says the words out loud.

This job takes skill. She has to think fast. She has to know two ways to talk. She keeps what she hears private. That way, people trust her.

You may see an interpreter near a stage. Her hands tell the song.

Questions

1. What is sign language?

_____

_____

2. What does an interpreter do when people speak?

_____

_____

3. What does she do when the person signs back?

_____

_____

4. Why must an interpreter think fast?

_____

_____

5. Where might you see an interpreter at a show?

_____

_____

Words to know

sign: a hand shape and motion that stands for a word
interpreter: a person who changes words from one way of talking to another
skill: something you can do well because you learned it
private: not shared with other people

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: _____

Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

Triangle group

Some people cannot hear. Many of them talk with their hands. This is called sign language. Each sign has a shape and a motion. Signs make words and sentences.

What if a person who signs goes to a meeting? The other people do not sign. An interpreter can help. She listens to what people say. Then she signs the words, so everyone can follow along. When the person signs an answer, she says the words out loud.

This job takes lots of skill. An interpreter has to pay close attention and think fast. She must know two ways of talking very well. She also keeps what she hears private, so people can trust her.

You may see an interpreter near a stage at a show. Her hands tell the story while the singers sing.

Questions

1. What is sign language?

_____

_____

2. What does an interpreter do when someone speaks?

_____

_____

3. What does the interpreter do when the person who signs answers?

_____

_____

4. Why must an interpreter think fast?

_____

_____

5. Where might you see an interpreter at a show?

_____

_____

Words to know

sign: a hand shape and motion that stands for a word
interpreter: a person who changes words from one way of talking to another
skill: something you can do well because you learned it
private: not shared with other people

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: _____

Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

Square group

Some people cannot hear at all, or they hear only a little. Many of them communicate with their hands, which is known as sign language. Every sign has its own shape and motion, and signs can be combined to form words and complete sentences.

Suppose a person who signs attends a meeting with people who do not sign. An interpreter can make the meeting possible. She listens carefully to what people say and signs their words, so that everyone can follow along. When the signing person replies, the interpreter speaks the words aloud.

This job demands a great deal of skill. An interpreter must concentrate closely and think quickly, and she must know two ways of communicating extremely well. She also keeps everything she hears private, so that people can trust her.

At a show, you may notice an interpreter standing near the stage while her hands tell the story of the song.

Questions

1. What is sign language?

_____

_____

2. What does an interpreter do when people speak?

_____

_____

3. What does the interpreter do when the signing person replies?

_____

_____

4. Why must an interpreter be able to think quickly?

_____

_____

5. Where might you notice an interpreter at a show?

_____

_____

Words to know

sign: a hand shape and motion that stands for a word
interpreter: a person who changes words from one way of talking to another
skill: something you can do well because you learned it
private: not shared with other people

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: Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

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

Circle: Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

Easier · 109 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.9

1. Talking with your hands.
2. She signs the words so everyone can follow.
3. She says the words out loud.
4. People keep talking, so she must sign the words right away.
5. Near the stage.

Triangle: Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

This passage · 134 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Talking with your hands, using shapes and motions.
2. She signs the words so everyone can follow along.
3. She says the words out loud.
4. People keep talking, so she has to change the words into signs right away.
5. Standing near the stage.

Square: Hands That Talk: A Sign Language Interpreter

Harder · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.6

1. A way of communicating with the hands, using shapes and motions.
2. She signs their words so everyone can follow along.
3. She speaks the words aloud.
4. People keep talking, so she has to turn their words into signs right away.
5. Standing near the stage.