Name: _____ Date: _____

The Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

Circle group

Behind the laundry room was a small garden. Rosa had never seen it. A little gate was hidden behind a basket of towels.

The garden did not grow flowers. It grew buttons! Red buttons hung on vines. Blue buttons sat in the dirt. Some had two holes. Some had four.

A sleepy gardener in a straw hat was watering them. "Pick one you need," he said.

Rosa thought about her coat. It had lost a button. She walked down the row. She found a big brown one that matched.

She twisted it off the vine. The vine gave a happy sigh.

At home, Rosa sewed the button on with her mother. The coat was whole again.

Rosa left a thank-you note by the gate.

Questions

1. Where was the little garden?

_____

_____

2. What did the garden grow?

_____

_____

3. Why did Rosa need a button?

_____

_____

4. Who helped Rosa sew on the button?

_____

_____

5. Why did Rosa leave a note?

_____

_____

Words to know

garden: a place where plants are grown
vines: long plants that creep and hang down
matched: was the same as another thing
sewed: joined cloth together using a needle and thread

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 Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

Triangle group

Behind the laundry room was a small garden. Rosa had never seen it before. A little gate was hidden behind a basket of towels.

The garden did not grow flowers. It grew buttons! Red buttons hung on vines. Blue buttons sat in the dirt like round eggs. Some had two holes, and some had four.

A sleepy gardener in a straw hat was watering them. "Pick any one you need," he said.

Rosa thought about her coat. It had lost a button last week. She walked down the row until she found a big brown one that matched.

She twisted it gently off the vine. The vine gave a happy little sigh.

At home, Rosa sewed the button on with her mother's help. The coat was whole again.

Rosa left a thank-you note by the gate.

Questions

1. Where was the little garden?

_____

_____

2. What did the garden grow?

_____

_____

3. Why did Rosa need a button?

_____

_____

4. Who helped Rosa sew on the button?

_____

_____

5. Why did Rosa leave a thank-you note?

_____

_____

Words to know

garden: a place where plants are grown
vines: long plants that creep and hang down
matched: was the same as another thing
sewed: joined cloth together using a needle and thread

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 Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

Square group

Behind the laundry room lay a small garden that Rosa had never noticed before. A narrow gate was hidden behind a basket of fresh towels.

The garden did not grow ordinary flowers. It grew buttons! Red buttons dangled from the vines, and blue buttons sat in the dirt like round little eggs. Some had two holes, and others had four.

A sleepy gardener in a straw hat was watering them. "Pick any one that you need," he said.

Rosa thought about her coat, which had lost a button the week before. She strolled down the row until she found a big brown one that matched perfectly.

She twisted it gently off the vine, and the vine gave a happy little sigh.

At home, Rosa sewed the button on with her mother's help, and the coat was whole again. Then she left a thank-you note by the gate.

Questions

1. Where was the little garden hidden?

_____

_____

2. What did the garden grow instead of ordinary flowers?

_____

_____

3. Why did Rosa need a button?

_____

_____

4. Who helped Rosa sew the button on?

_____

_____

5. Why did Rosa leave a thank-you note by the gate?

_____

_____

Words to know

garden: a place where plants are grown
vines: long plants that creep and hang down
matched: was the same as another thing
sewed: joined cloth together using a needle and thread

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 Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

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

Circle: The Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

Easier · 125 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. Behind the laundry room.
2. Buttons.
3. Her coat had lost one.
4. Her mother.
5. She was thankful to the gardener.

Triangle: The Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

This passage · 137 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Behind the laundry room.
2. Buttons.
3. Her coat had lost one.
4. Her mother.
5. She was grateful to the gardener for the button.

Square: The Button Garden Behind the Laundry Room

Harder · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. Behind the laundry room, behind a basket of towels.
2. Buttons.
3. Her coat had lost one the week before.
4. Her mother.
5. She was grateful to the gardener for the button.