Name: _____ Date: _____

The Night Train to Cedar Falls

Circle group

Pia had never been on a night train. She and her dad had a tiny room with two beds. One bed was on top of the other. Pia got the top bed.

"It is like a bunk on a ship," she said.

The train rocked. Click-clack, click-clack. Pia looked out the window. She saw lights in a far town. She saw a silver river in the moon.

Soon she was sleepy. In the morning, a soft voice said, "Cedar Falls. Next stop, Cedar Falls."

Pia sat up fast. Outside, a tall waterfall fell down a green cliff. It made white mist in the sun.

"We are here!" said her dad.

Pia grabbed her bag. She waved to the train. She wanted to ride it again.

Questions

1. Who went on the night train with Pia?

_____

_____

2. What kind of beds did Pia and her dad have?

_____

_____

3. What sound did the train make?

_____

_____

4. What did Pia see in Cedar Falls?

_____

_____

5. How do you know Pia liked the trip?

_____

_____

Words to know

bunk: a narrow bed that is built above or below another
cliff: a high, steep wall of rock
mist: a cloud of tiny drops of water

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 Night Train to Cedar Falls

Triangle group

Pia had never been on a night train. She and her dad had a tiny room with two beds, one on top of the other. Pia got the top bed.

"It is like sleeping in a bunk on a ship," she said.

The train rocked back and forth. Click-clack, click-clack. Pia looked out the window. She saw lights in a far town and a silver river in the moon.

Soon she felt sleepy. In the morning, a soft voice said, "Cedar Falls. Next stop, Cedar Falls."

Pia sat up fast. Outside, a high waterfall tumbled down a green cliff and made white mist in the sun.

"We are here!" said her dad.

Pia grabbed her small bag. She waved to the train as it pulled away. She wanted to ride it again some day.

Questions

1. Who went on the night train with Pia?

_____

_____

2. What kind of beds did Pia and her dad have?

_____

_____

3. What sound did the train make?

_____

_____

4. What did Pia see when she woke up in Cedar Falls?

_____

_____

5. How do you know Pia liked the trip?

_____

_____

Words to know

bunk: a narrow bed that is built above or below another
cliff: a high, steep wall of rock
tumbled: fell down quickly
mist: a cloud of tiny drops of water

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 Night Train to Cedar Falls

Square group

Pia had never traveled on a night train before. She and her dad shared a tiny room with two beds, one stacked above the other, and Pia was delighted to get the top bunk.

"It is just like sleeping on a ship," she said.

The train swayed gently from side to side. Click-clack, click-clack. Pia gazed out the window and saw the lights of a faraway town and a silver river shining in the moonlight.

Before long, she felt sleepy. In the morning, a soft voice announced, "Cedar Falls. Next stop, Cedar Falls."

Pia sat straight up. Outside, a towering waterfall tumbled down a green cliff and sent white mist floating into the sunshine.

"We are here!" said her dad.

Pia grabbed her small bag. She waved to the train as it pulled away, hoping that she could ride it again some day.

Questions

1. Who traveled on the night train with Pia?

_____

_____

2. What kind of beds did Pia and her dad have?

_____

_____

3. What sound did the train make as it moved?

_____

_____

4. What did Pia see when she woke up at Cedar Falls?

_____

_____

5. How can you tell that Pia enjoyed the trip?

_____

_____

Words to know

bunk: a narrow bed that is built above or below another
cliff: a high, steep wall of rock
tumbled: fell down quickly
mist: a cloud of tiny drops of water

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 Night Train to Cedar Falls

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

Circle: The Night Train to Cedar Falls

Easier · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.1

1. Her dad.
2. Two beds, one on top of the other.
3. Click-clack, click-clack.
4. A tall waterfall on a green cliff.
5. She waved to the train and wanted to ride it again.

Triangle: The Night Train to Cedar Falls

This passage · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. Her dad.
2. Two beds, one on top of the other.
3. Click-clack, click-clack.
4. A high waterfall on a green cliff.
5. She waved to the train and wanted to ride it again.

Square: The Night Train to Cedar Falls

Harder · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Her dad.
2. Two beds, one stacked above the other.
3. Click-clack, click-clack.
4. A towering waterfall on a green cliff.
5. She waved to the train and hoped to ride it again.