Name: _____ Date: _____

The Secret Knock at the Treehouse

Circle group

Omar and Kit had a treehouse. To go in, you had to know the secret knock. Two taps, a stop, and three taps.

One day, Omar climbed up and did the knock. No one came. He knocked again. Nothing.

"Kit, it is me," he said.

Then he heard a tiny voice. "Say the password."

Omar did not know the password! He thought hard. It was a fruit. "Apple?" he said. "Pear?" The door stayed shut.

Then he saw a paper by the door. It had a drawing of a yellow fruit with a curl at the end. Omar grinned.

"Banana!" he said.

The door swung open. Kit smiled. "I made the drawing in case you forgot," she said. "Now you know it for good."

Questions

1. What was the secret knock?

_____

_____

2. Why did the door stay shut at first?

_____

_____

3. What clue did Kit leave?

_____

_____

4. What was the password?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Kit left the drawing?

_____

_____

Words to know

secret: something that only a few people know
password: a special word that lets you in
grinned: smiled very wide

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 Secret Knock at the Treehouse

Triangle group

Omar and Kit had a treehouse. To go in, you had to know the secret knock. Two taps, a pause, and three taps.

One afternoon, Omar climbed up and gave the knock. No one answered. He knocked again. Still nothing.

"Kit, it is me," he said.

Then he heard a tiny voice. "Say the password."

Omar did not remember the password! He thought hard. It was a fruit, he was sure. "Apple?" he said. "Pear?" The door stayed shut.

Then he spotted a paper stuck by the door. It had a drawing of a yellow fruit with a curl on the end. Omar grinned.

"Banana!" he said.

The door swung open. Kit stood there with a big smile. "I made the drawing in case you forgot," she said. "Now you know it for good."

Questions

1. What was the secret knock?

_____

_____

2. Why did the door stay shut at first?

_____

_____

3. What was the clue that Kit left?

_____

_____

4. What was the password?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Kit left the drawing?

_____

_____

Words to know

secret: something that only a few people know
password: a special word that lets you in
pause: a short stop
grinned: smiled very wide

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 Secret Knock at the Treehouse

Square group

Omar and Kit shared a treehouse, and nobody could enter without knowing the secret knock: two taps, a pause, and then three more taps.

One afternoon, Omar scrambled up the ladder and gave the knock. No one answered. He knocked again, but there was still no reply.

"Kit, it is me," he called.

Then he heard a tiny voice from inside. "Say the password."

Omar could not remember the password! He thought as hard as he could. It was a fruit, he felt certain. "Apple?" he guessed. "Pear?" The door stayed firmly shut.

Then he noticed a piece of paper stuck beside the door. It showed a drawing of a yellow fruit with a curl at one end. Omar grinned from ear to ear.

"Banana!" he shouted.

The door swung wide open, and Kit stood there smiling. "I made the drawing in case you forgot," she said. "Now you will remember it for good."

Questions

1. What was the secret knock for the treehouse?

_____

_____

2. Why did the door stay shut at first?

_____

_____

3. What clue had Kit left beside the door?

_____

_____

4. What was the password?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Kit made the drawing?

_____

_____

Words to know

secret: something that only a few people know
password: a special word that lets you in
pause: a short stop
grinned: smiled very wide

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 Secret Knock at the Treehouse

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

Circle: The Secret Knock at the Treehouse

Easier · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.1

1. Two taps, a stop, and three taps.
2. Omar did not say the password.
3. A drawing of a yellow fruit.
4. Banana.
5. She wanted to help Omar if he forgot the password.

Triangle: The Secret Knock at the Treehouse

This passage · 134 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. Two taps, a pause, and three taps.
2. Omar did not say the password.
3. A drawing of a yellow fruit.
4. Banana.
5. She wanted to help Omar if he forgot the password.

Square: The Secret Knock at the Treehouse

Harder · 154 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Two taps, a pause, and then three more taps.
2. Omar did not say the password.
3. A drawing of a yellow fruit.
4. Banana.
5. She wanted to help Omar in case he forgot the password.