Name: _____ Date: _____

The Sparrow and the Silent Bell

Circle group

A town had an old clock tower with a bell. Each hour the bell rang. Each hour Sam the sparrow chirped over it. "Listen to me!" he sang.

One morning the bell did not ring. A rope had slipped. The town was quiet. Sam sang louder, but no one looked up. They waited for the bell.

Then Sam heard a tiny sound in the tower. A kitten was stuck behind the bell. It was mewing softly.

Sam flew to the baker and tugged her apron. She had open ears now. She heard the mew. She ran up the stairs and saved the kitten.

Sam did not sing over the bell again. A quiet bird can hear a lot.

Questions

1. What did Sam do each hour?

_____

_____

2. Why did the bell not ring?

_____

_____

3. What was stuck behind the bell?

_____

_____

4. Who saved the kitten?

_____

_____

5. Why did Sam hear the kitten?

_____

_____

6. What is the lesson of the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

tower: a tall, narrow building
chirped: made short, high bird sounds
mewing: making the soft cry of a cat

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 Sparrow and the Silent Bell

Triangle group

A town had an old clock tower with a bell. Every hour the bell rang, and every hour Sam the sparrow chirped loudly right over it. "Listen to me!" he sang.

One morning the bell did not ring. A rope had slipped. The town grew quiet, and Sam sang louder, but no one looked up. They were all waiting for the bell.

Then Sam noticed a tiny sound from inside the tower. It was a kitten, stuck behind the bell, mewing softly.

Sam flew down to the baker and tugged on her apron. Her ears were open now, and she heard the mew. She climbed the stairs and rescued the kitten.

After that, Sam stopped singing over the bell. He had learned how much a quiet bird can hear.

Questions

1. What did Sam do every hour?

_____

_____

2. Why did the bell not ring one morning?

_____

_____

3. What was stuck behind the bell?

_____

_____

4. Who rescued the kitten?

_____

_____

5. Why did Sam hear the kitten when he was quiet?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

tower: a tall, narrow building
chirped: made short, high bird sounds
mewing: making the soft cry of a cat
rescued: saved from trouble

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 Sparrow and the Silent Bell

Square group

A small town had an ancient clock tower with a great brass bell. Every hour the bell rang out, and every hour Sam the sparrow chirped noisily right over the top of it. "Listen to me!" he sang.

One morning the bell failed to ring, because a rope had slipped loose. The whole town fell silent, and Sam sang even louder, but nobody looked up. They were all waiting for the bell.

Then Sam noticed a faint sound coming from inside the tower. A kitten was trapped behind the bell, mewing softly.

Sam swooped down to the baker and tugged at her apron. Now that the town was quiet, her ears were open, and she heard the tiny mew. She hurried up the stairs and rescued the kitten.

From then on Sam stopped singing over the bell. He had discovered how much a quiet bird can hear.

Questions

1. What did Sam do every hour?

_____

_____

2. Why did the bell fail to ring one morning?

_____

_____

3. What was trapped behind the bell?

_____

_____

4. Who rescued the kitten?

_____

_____

5. Why was Sam able to hear the kitten when others had not?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

tower: a tall, narrow building
chirped: made short, high bird sounds
mewing: making the soft cry of a cat
rescued: saved from trouble

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 Sparrow and the Silent Bell

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

Circle: The Sparrow and the Silent Bell

Easier · 118 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.9

1. He chirped over the bell.
2. A rope had slipped.
3. A kitten.
4. The baker.
5. He was quiet, so he could hear small sounds.
6. Listening can teach you more than talking.

Triangle: The Sparrow and the Silent Bell

This passage · 129 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. He chirped loudly over the bell.
2. A rope had slipped.
3. A kitten.
4. The baker.
5. He was not making noise, so he could hear small sounds.
6. Listening can teach you more than talking.

Square: The Sparrow and the Silent Bell

Harder · 147 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. He chirped noisily over the bell.
2. A rope had slipped loose.
3. A kitten.
4. The baker.
5. He had stopped making noise, so he could notice small sounds.
6. Listening carefully can teach you more than talking does.