Name: _____ Date: _____

A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

Circle group

Eli and his dad moved into Noah's house. Eli brought two boxes of clothes. He also brought a tortoise named Gravel.

Eli hardly spoke. At dinner he looked at his plate. In the hall he looked at his shoes. Noah told jokes. They did not work. He showed Eli his video games. Eli just shrugged.

One day, Noah saw Eli on the hall floor. Gravel was walking. He took one slow step, then another.

"What is he doing?" asked Noah.

"He is going to his warm spot," Eli said softly. "He does it every day."

Noah sat down too. They watched Gravel. It took a long time. Noah did not mind. Eli had said a whole sentence to him.

"Does he like lettuce?" asked Noah.

"He likes dandelions best," said Eli. He almost smiled.

The next day, Noah picked dandelions. He and Eli waited in the hall. When Gravel got to his warm spot, Noah put a lamp there to make it warmer. Eli looked up at him. He did not look at his shoes.

Questions

1. What did Eli bring when he moved in?

_____

_____

2. What was the tortoise named?

_____

_____

3. Where was Gravel walking to in the hall?

_____

_____

4. What does Gravel like best to eat?

_____

_____

5. Why did Noah sit on the floor with Eli?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell Eli felt more at home at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

tortoise: a slow land animal with a hard shell
shrugged: lifted the shoulders to show not caring or not knowing
dandelions: yellow flowers that grow in grass

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: _____

A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

Triangle group

When Eli and his dad moved into Noah's house, Eli brought two boxes of clothes and one tortoise. The tortoise was named Gravel.

Eli hardly spoke. At dinner he looked at his plate. In the hall he looked at his shoes. Noah tried jokes, but they did not work. He tried showing Eli his video games, but Eli just shrugged.

One afternoon, Noah found Eli sitting on the hallway floor. Gravel was walking from one end to the other. He took one slow step, then another.

"What is he doing?" asked Noah.

"He is going to his warm spot," Eli said quietly. "He does that every day."

Noah sat down too. They watched Gravel stretch out his wrinkly neck. It took a very long time. Noah did not mind. It was the first time Eli had said a whole sentence to him.

"Does he like lettuce?" Noah asked.

"He likes dandelions best," said Eli, and he almost smiled.

The next day, Noah picked a handful from the yard. He and Eli waited together in the hall. When Gravel reached his warm spot, Noah put a desk lamp there so it would be warmer. Eli looked up at him, and this time he did not look at his shoes.

Questions

1. What did Eli bring when he moved in?

_____

_____

2. What was the tortoise's name?

_____

_____

3. Where was Gravel walking in the hallway?

_____

_____

4. What food does Gravel like best?

_____

_____

5. Why did Noah sit down on the floor beside Eli?

_____

_____

6. What shows that Eli felt more at home by the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

tortoise: a slow land animal with a hard shell
shrugged: lifted the shoulders to show not caring or not knowing
wrinkly: full of small folds and lines
dandelions: yellow flowers that grow in grass
stretch: to reach out long and straight

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: _____

A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

Square group

When Eli and his father moved into Noah's house, Eli arrived with two boxes of clothes and one tortoise, whose name was Gravel.

Eli scarcely spoke at all. At dinner he stared at his plate, and in the hallway he stared at his shoes. Noah tried telling jokes, but none of them worked. He tried showing Eli his favorite video games, but Eli merely shrugged.

One afternoon, Noah found Eli sitting on the hallway floor while Gravel plodded from one end to the other, taking one slow step and then another.

"What is he doing?" asked Noah.

"He is heading to his warm spot," Eli said quietly. "He does that every single day."

Noah sat down beside him, and together they watched Gravel stretch out his wrinkly neck. The journey took a very long time, but Noah did not mind. It was the first time Eli had spoken a whole sentence to him.

"Does he like lettuce?" Noah asked.

"He likes dandelions best," said Eli, and he nearly smiled.

The following day, Noah gathered a handful of dandelions from the yard. He and Eli waited patiently in the hall, and when Gravel finally reached his warm spot, Noah set a desk lamp there to make it cozier. Eli looked up at him, and this time he did not look at his shoes.

Questions

1. What did Eli bring with him when he moved into the house?

_____

_____

2. What was the name of Eli's tortoise?

_____

_____

3. Where was Gravel slowly heading in the hallway?

_____

_____

4. Which food does Gravel like best?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Noah sat down on the floor beside Eli?

_____

_____

6. What detail at the end shows that Eli was beginning to feel at home?

_____

_____

Words to know

tortoise: a slow land animal with a hard shell
shrugged: lifted the shoulders to show not caring or not knowing
wrinkly: full of small folds and lines
dandelions: yellow flowers that grow in grass
stretch: to reach out long and straight

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: A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

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

Circle: A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

Easier · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. Two boxes of clothes and a tortoise.
2. Gravel.
3. To his warm spot.
4. Dandelions.
5. He wanted to spend time with Eli and share what Eli cared about.
6. He looked up at Noah and not at his shoes.

Triangle: A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

This passage · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. Two boxes of clothes and a tortoise.
2. Gravel.
3. From one end to the other, to his warm spot.
4. Dandelions.
5. He wanted to spend time with Eli and share what Eli cared about.
6. He looked up at Noah instead of looking at his shoes.

Square: A Tortoise Named Gravel Moves In

Harder · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. Two boxes of clothes and a tortoise.
2. Gravel.
3. To his warm spot.
4. Dandelions.
5. He wanted to spend time with Eli and share something Eli cared about.
6. He looked up at Noah instead of looking at his shoes.