Name: _____ Date: _____

The Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

Circle group

In art class, Zadie spent three weeks making a clay bowl for her grandmother. She rolled the clay. She pinched the sides. She pressed tiny stars on the outside.

Then the bowl went in the kiln, a hot oven for clay. Mr. Park opened it. Zadie's heart dropped. A long crack ran across the bottom.

"It happens," said Mr. Park. "Air bubbles in the clay can pop in the heat."

Zadie wanted to throw it away. But Mr. Park said, "You can fill a crack with gold paint. Then the crack is part of the design."

Zadie painted a gold line. It shone like a river on a map. She gave the bowl to her grandmother.

"It is perfect," said Grandma. She kept her keys in it.

Questions

1. Who was the bowl for?

_____

_____

2. What is a kiln?

_____

_____

3. Why did the bowl crack?

_____

_____

4. What did Zadie use to fix the crack?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zadie's heart drop?

_____

_____

6. How did the gold line change the bowl?

_____

_____

Words to know

kiln: a very hot oven used to harden clay
crack: a thin line where something has split
design: a pattern or picture that decorates something

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 Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

Triangle group

In art class, Zadie spent three weeks making a clay bowl for her grandmother. She rolled the clay, pinched the sides, and smoothed the rim with a wet sponge. She even pressed tiny stars into the outside.

Then the bowl went into the kiln, a very hot oven for clay. When Mr. Park opened it, Zadie's heart dropped. A long crack ran across the bottom.

"It happens sometimes," said Mr. Park. "Air bubbles inside the clay can pop in the heat."

Zadie wanted to throw the bowl away. But Mr. Park showed her a shelf of mended pieces. "There is a way to fix a crack," he said. "You can fill it with gold paint, and the crack becomes part of the design."

Zadie painted a thin gold line along the crack, and it shone like a river on a map. She gave the bowl to her grandmother on Sunday.

"It is perfect," said Grandma, and she kept her keys in it by the door.

Questions

1. Who was the bowl for?

_____

_____

2. What is a kiln?

_____

_____

3. Why did the bowl crack?

_____

_____

4. What did Zadie use to fix the crack?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zadie's heart drop when she saw the bowl?

_____

_____

6. How did the gold line change the way the bowl looked?

_____

_____

Words to know

kiln: a very hot oven used to harden clay
rim: the top edge of a bowl or cup
crack: a thin line where something has split
mended: fixed after being broken
design: a pattern or picture that decorates something

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 Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

Square group

In art class, Zadie devoted three whole weeks to making a clay bowl for her grandmother. She rolled out the clay, pinched up the sides, and smoothed the rim with a damp sponge. She even pressed tiny stars into the outside of the bowl.

Then the bowl went into the kiln, a very hot oven used for hardening clay. When Mr. Park opened it, Zadie's heart sank. A long crack ran straight across the bottom.

"It happens occasionally," said Mr. Park. "Air bubbles trapped inside the clay can burst in the heat."

Zadie wanted to throw the bowl in the trash. But Mr. Park showed her a shelf of mended pieces. "There is a way to repair a crack," he explained. "You can fill it with gold paint, and then the crack becomes part of the design."

Zadie painted a thin gold line along the crack, and it gleamed like a river on a map. She presented the bowl to her grandmother on Sunday.

"It is perfect," Grandma declared, and she kept her keys in it by the door.

Questions

1. Who was the bowl made for?

_____

_____

2. What is a kiln?

_____

_____

3. Why did the bowl crack?

_____

_____

4. What did Zadie use to repair the crack?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zadie's heart sink when she saw the bowl?

_____

_____

6. How did the gold line change the way the bowl looked?

_____

_____

Words to know

kiln: a very hot oven used to harden clay
rim: the top edge of a bowl or cup
crack: a thin line where something has split
mended: fixed after being broken
design: a pattern or picture that decorates something

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 Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

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

Circle: The Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

Easier · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. Zadie's grandmother.
2. A hot oven for clay.
3. Air bubbles in the clay popped in the heat.
4. Gold paint.
5. She worked hard and the bowl was broken.
6. The crack became a pretty part of the design.

Triangle: The Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

This passage · 165 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Zadie's grandmother.
2. A very hot oven for clay.
3. Air bubbles in the clay can pop in the heat.
4. Gold paint.
5. She had worked hard for weeks and the bowl was broken.
6. The crack became a pretty part of the design.

Square: The Clay Bowl That Cracked in the Kiln

Harder · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. Zadie's grandmother.
2. A very hot oven used for hardening clay.
3. Air bubbles trapped inside the clay burst in the heat.
4. Gold paint.
5. She had worked hard for weeks and the bowl was broken.
6. The crack became a beautiful part of the design.