Name: _____ Date: _____

Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

Circle group

Farmer Nell had the tallest corn in the state. People said it grew an inch each time they looked at it. One summer it grew so tall that the top poked through a cloud.

The cloud was ticklish. It giggled and shook, and rain fell on the town for three days. Boots floated down the street. A duck paddled past the bakery.

Nell had to fix it. She stacked eleven ladders and climbed up through the fog. At the top, she saw the cloud wiggle.

"Sorry, friend," said Nell. She took her garden scissors and snipped the tip of the corn.

The cloud sighed. It stopped giggling, and the sun came out. The town dried off, and everyone ate corn on the cob for a month.

Questions

1. What was special about Nell's corn?

_____

_____

2. What poked through the cloud?

_____

_____

3. Why did the rain fall?

_____

_____

4. How many days did it rain?

_____

_____

5. How did Nell fix it?

_____

_____

6. Why is this a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

ticklish: easily made to laugh when touched lightly
giggled: laughed in a silly, high way
snipped: cut off with a quick snip
fog: a thick cloud close to the ground

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: _____

Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

Triangle group

Farmer Nell grew the tallest corn in the whole state. Folks said it grew an inch every time somebody looked at it. One summer it grew so tall that the top poked right through a cloud.

The cloud was ticklish. It giggled and shook, and rain fell on the town for three days. Boots floated down Main Street. A duck paddled past the bakery as if it owned the place.

Nell knew she had to fix it. She stacked eleven ladders end to end and climbed up through the fog. At the top she found the cloud wiggling and wheezing.

"Sorry, friend," said Nell. She took out her garden scissors and snipped the tip of the corn.

The cloud sighed. It stopped giggling, and the sun came out. The town dried off, and everybody ate corn on the cob for a month.

Questions

1. What was special about Nell's corn?

_____

_____

2. What poked through the cloud?

_____

_____

3. Why did the rain fall on the town?

_____

_____

4. How long did the rain last?

_____

_____

5. How did Nell fix the problem?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

ticklish: easily made to laugh when touched lightly
folks: ordinary people in a town or place
giggled: laughed in a silly, high way
snipped: cut off with a quick snip
fog: a thick cloud close to the ground

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: _____

Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

Square group

Farmer Nell grew the tallest corn in the entire state. Folks claimed that it grew an inch every time somebody glanced at it. One summer it shot up so high that the top poked right through a passing cloud.

The cloud turned out to be extremely ticklish. It giggled and shook, and rain poured down on the town for three whole days. Boots floated along Main Street, and a duck paddled past the bakery as if it owned the place.

Nell knew she had to put things right. She stacked eleven ladders end to end and climbed up through the thick fog. At the top, she found the cloud wiggling and wheezing with laughter.

"I am sorry, friend," said Nell. She pulled out her garden scissors and carefully snipped the tip of the corn.

The cloud let out a long sigh and stopped giggling. The sun came out, the town dried off, and everybody feasted on corn on the cob for a month.

Questions

1. What was remarkable about Nell's corn?

_____

_____

2. What poked through the passing cloud?

_____

_____

3. Why did rain pour down on the town?

_____

_____

4. How long did the rain last?

_____

_____

5. How did Nell put things right?

_____

_____

6. What makes this story a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

ticklish: easily made to laugh when touched lightly
folks: ordinary people in a town or place
giggled: laughed in a silly, high way
snipped: cut off with a quick snip
fog: a thick cloud close to the ground

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: Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

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

Circle: Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

Easier · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. It was the tallest in the state.
2. The top of the corn.
3. The ticklish cloud giggled and shook.
4. Three days.
5. She climbed up and snipped the tip of the corn.
6. It tells things much bigger than real life, like corn poking through a cloud.

Triangle: Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

This passage · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. It was the tallest corn in the whole state.
2. The top of the corn.
3. The ticklish cloud giggled and shook.
4. Three days.
5. She climbed up and snipped the tip of the corn with garden scissors.
6. The things in it are blown up much bigger than real life, like corn poking through a cloud.

Square: Farmer Nell and the Ticklish Cloud

Harder · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. It was the tallest corn in the entire state.
2. The top of the corn.
3. The ticklish cloud giggled and shook.
4. Three whole days.
5. She climbed the ladders and snipped the tip of the corn with her garden scissors.
6. It stretches things far beyond real life, such as corn so high it pokes through a cloud.