Name: _____ Date: _____

Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

Circle group

Gearbox was a robot. He had two big metal hands. He could lift boxes and turn wheels. But his fingers were too clumsy for a needle.

His neighbor, Mrs. Lindqvist, was knitting mittens for the winter fair. Gearbox wanted to help. He took two needles and some yarn. Snap! The first needle bent in half.

"Hands that lift well are not good at tiny things," said Mrs. Lindqvist. "Go slowly."

Gearbox opened a small panel. He turned a dial. His grip got softer. He tried again. The yarn made a loop, and then another loop. By evening he had made a long, crooked scarf shape.

"It is not a mitten," he said sadly.

"No," said Mrs. Lindqvist, "but it is fine for the fair." She hung it up with a sign. The sign said, "Made by Gearbox." The next day, a girl bought it for her giraffe toy.

Questions

1. What was Gearbox good at doing?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the first needle?

_____

_____

3. How did Gearbox make his grip softer?

_____

_____

4. What did Gearbox make by evening?

_____

_____

5. Why was Gearbox sad about what he made?

_____

_____

6. Who bought the scarf shape at the fair?

_____

_____

Words to know

knit: to make cloth by looping yarn with needles
clumsy: not good at moving in a careful way
yarn: long, soft thread used for knitting
crooked: bent or not straight
grip: the way you hold something tightly

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: _____

Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

Triangle group

Gearbox was a robot with two big metal hands. He could lift boxes and turn wheels. But his fingers were too clumsy to hold a needle.

His neighbor, Mrs. Lindqvist, was knitting mittens for the winter fair. Gearbox wanted to help. He took two needles and some yarn. Snap! The first needle bent in half.

"Hands that are good at lifting are not good at tiny things," said Mrs. Lindqvist. "Try slowly."

Gearbox opened a small panel and turned a dial. His grip got softer. He tried again. The yarn made one loop, then another. By evening he had made a long, crooked scarf shape.

"It is not a mitten," he said sadly.

"No," said Mrs. Lindqvist, "but it is a fine thing for the fair." She hung it on the stand with a sign that said, "Made by Gearbox." By noon the next day, a girl had bought it for her giraffe toy.

Questions

1. What was Gearbox good at doing?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the first needle?

_____

_____

3. What did Gearbox do to make his grip softer?

_____

_____

4. What did Gearbox make by evening?

_____

_____

5. Why was Gearbox sad about what he made?

_____

_____

6. Who bought the scarf shape at the fair?

_____

_____

Words to know

knit: to make cloth by looping yarn with needles
clumsy: not good at moving in a careful way
yarn: long, soft thread used for knitting
crooked: bent or not straight
grip: the way you hold something tightly

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: _____

Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

Square group

Gearbox was a robot with two enormous metal hands. He could easily lift heavy boxes and turn stubborn wheels, but his fingers were far too clumsy to hold a delicate needle.

His neighbor, Mrs. Lindqvist, was busy knitting mittens for the winter fair, and Gearbox badly wanted to help. He picked up two needles and a ball of yarn. Snap! The first needle bent right in half.

"Hands that are good at lifting are rarely good at tiny things," said Mrs. Lindqvist. "Try it slowly, and be patient with yourself."

Gearbox opened a small panel on his wrist and turned a dial, and his grip grew much softer. He tried again. The yarn made one loop, then another, and by evening he had produced a long, crooked scarf shape.

"It is not a mitten," he said sadly.

"No," said Mrs. Lindqvist, "but it is a fine thing for the fair." She hung it on the stand beside a sign reading "Made by Gearbox." Before noon the next day, a girl had bought it for her toy giraffe.

Questions

1. What kinds of jobs was Gearbox good at doing?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the first needle he held?

_____

_____

3. What did Gearbox do to make his grip softer?

_____

_____

4. What had Gearbox produced by evening?

_____

_____

5. Why was Gearbox sad about his work?

_____

_____

6. Who bought the scarf shape, and what was it for?

_____

_____

Words to know

knit: to make cloth by looping yarn with needles
clumsy: not good at moving in a careful way
yarn: long, soft thread used for knitting
crooked: bent or not straight
grip: the way you hold something tightly

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: Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

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

Circle: Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

Easier · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Lifting boxes and turning wheels.
2. It bent in half.
3. He opened a panel and turned a dial.
4. A long, crooked scarf shape.
5. He wanted a mitten, but it did not look like one.
6. A girl who wanted it for her giraffe toy.

Triangle: Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

This passage · 154 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. Lifting boxes and turning wheels.
2. It bent in half.
3. He opened a panel and turned a dial.
4. A long, crooked scarf shape.
5. He wanted to make a mitten, but it did not look like one.
6. A girl who wanted it for her giraffe toy.

Square: Gearbox Learns to Knit Mittens

Harder · 177 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. Lifting heavy boxes and turning stubborn wheels.
2. It bent right in half.
3. He opened a panel on his wrist and turned a dial.
4. A long, crooked scarf shape.
5. He had hoped to make a mitten, but it did not look like one.
6. A girl bought it for her toy giraffe.