Name: _____ Date: _____

The Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

Circle group

Nora checked the mailbox each morning. One Tuesday, it was humming. Mmmmm. It sounded like a little motor.

Nora did not open it. She got her uncle. He tapped the box with a pencil. The hum got louder. "Something is alive in there," he said.

They stood back. A gold bee came out. Then more bees came out. They flew to the apple trees.

"A swarm of bees moved in," said Uncle Pat. He called Mrs. Lund, a beekeeper. She came with a box and a brush. The bees went into the new box. The mailbox was quiet.

Nora made a sign. It said, "Mail goes here. Bees go there."

Questions

1. What did Nora hear in the mailbox?

_____

_____

2. What did Uncle Pat tap the box with?

_____

_____

3. Where did the bees fly?

_____

_____

4. Who came to take the bees?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nora get her uncle?

_____

_____

6. Why did Nora make a sign?

_____

_____

Words to know

motor: a machine part that makes things move and hum
swarm: a big group of bees that fly together
beekeeper: a person who takes care of bees
humming: making a low, steady sound like mmm

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 Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

Triangle group

Every morning, Nora checked the mailbox at the end of her lane. But one Tuesday, the mailbox was humming. Mmmmm. It sounded like a tiny motor.

Nora did not open the little door. She ran to get her uncle instead. He tapped the side of the box with a pencil. The humming got louder. "Something is alive in there," he said.

They stepped back and watched. A small gold bee crawled out, and then another. Soon a long line of bees flew off toward the apple trees across the road.

"A swarm moved in," said Uncle Pat. He called a beekeeper named Mrs. Lund. She came with a wooden box and a soft brush. By lunch, the bees had a new home, and the mailbox was quiet.

Nora made a sign for the post. It said, "Mail goes here. Bees go there."

Questions

1. What did Nora hear coming from the mailbox?

_____

_____

2. What did Uncle Pat use to tap the mailbox?

_____

_____

3. Where did the bees fly first?

_____

_____

4. Who came to move the bees?

_____

_____

5. Why was it smart for Nora to get her uncle before opening the door?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Nora made the sign?

_____

_____

Words to know

motor: a machine part that makes things move and hum
swarm: a big group of bees that fly together
beekeeper: a person who takes care of bees
lane: a narrow country road
humming: making a low, steady sound like mmm

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 Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

Square group

Every morning, Nora walked to the mailbox at the end of her lane to see whether any letters had arrived. But one Tuesday, the mailbox was humming with a low, steady sound, mmmmm, much like a tiny motor.

Instead of opening the little door, Nora hurried back to the house and fetched her uncle. He tapped the side of the box with a pencil, and the humming grew noticeably louder. "Something is alive in there," he said quietly.

They stepped back and waited. A small gold bee crawled out of the opening, followed by another and then another. Before long, a long line of bees rose into the air and drifted toward the apple trees across the road.

"A swarm must have moved in," Uncle Pat explained. He telephoned a beekeeper named Mrs. Lund, who arrived with a wooden box and a soft brush. By lunchtime, the bees had settled into their new home, and the mailbox was silent once again.

Nora made a sign and fastened it to the post. It said, "Mail goes here. Bees go there."

Questions

1. What sound did Nora hear coming from the mailbox?

_____

_____

2. What did Uncle Pat use to tap the side of the mailbox?

_____

_____

3. Which way did the bees fly after they came out?

_____

_____

4. Who did Uncle Pat call to move the bees?

_____

_____

5. Why was it wise for Nora to fetch her uncle instead of opening the door?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Nora fastened a sign to the post?

_____

_____

Words to know

motor: a machine part that makes things move and hum
swarm: a big group of bees that fly together
beekeeper: a person who takes care of bees
lane: a narrow country road
humming: making a low, steady sound like mmm

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 Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

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

Circle: The Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

Easier · 110 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. A humming sound.
2. A pencil.
3. To the apple trees.
4. Mrs. Lund, a beekeeper.
5. Bees can sting, so a grown-up could help keep her safe.
6. She wanted people to put mail in the box and leave the bees alone.

Triangle: The Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

This passage · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. A humming sound.
2. A pencil.
3. Toward the apple trees across the road.
4. A beekeeper named Mrs. Lund.
5. Bees can sting, so a grown-up could help keep everyone safe.
6. She wanted people to put mail in the box and leave the bees alone.

Square: The Humming Mailbox on Fern Lane

Harder · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. A low, steady humming sound.
2. A pencil.
3. Toward the apple trees across the road.
4. A beekeeper named Mrs. Lund.
5. Bees can sting, so a grown-up could help keep everyone safe.
6. She wanted people to keep using the mailbox for mail and to leave the bees alone.