Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

Circle group

The tall clock in the Maple Street Library had a problem. Each afternoon, it stopped at ten past three. Mr. Dane, the librarian, wound it every morning. By night, it was still again.

Mina and Gus liked puzzles. They sat on the rug and watched the clock. At three, nothing. At five past, nothing. At ten past, they heard a soft peep.

Gus pointed. A little brown wren sat in the clock case. It hopped on the swinging arm. The arm wobbled. The clock ticked slower and slower. Then it stopped.

"The bird comes in through a crack by the window," whispered Mina.

Mr. Dane did not want to hurt the wren. He hung a birdhouse outside. The next day, the wren moved in. The clock kept good time.

## Questions

**1. When did the clock stop each day?**

_____

_____

**2. Who wound the clock each morning?**

_____

_____

**3. What bird was in the clock case?**

_____

_____

**4. Where did Mr. Dane hang the birdhouse?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the clock stop?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Mr. Dane hang a birdhouse?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

librarian: a person who works in a library
wren: a tiny brown bird with a loud song
wound: turned a key to give a clock its power
wobble: to shake from side to side
whispered: spoke in a very soft voice

## 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 Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

Triangle group

The tall clock in the Maple Street Library had a problem. Every afternoon, it stopped at ten past three. The librarian, Mr. Dane, wound it up each morning. By evening, it always stood still again.

Mina and Gus liked puzzles, so they sat on the rug and watched the clock. At three o'clock, nothing happened. At five past, still nothing. Then, at ten past, they heard a soft peep.

Gus pointed. A small brown wren sat inside the clock case, hopping on the swinging arm. Each hop made the arm wobble, and the clock ticked slower and slower until it stopped.

"A bird has been visiting through that crack in the window frame," whispered Mina.

Mr. Dane smiled. He did not want to hurt the wren, so he hung a little wooden birdhouse outside the window. The next day, the wren moved into it. The clock kept good time all week, and the children kept an eye on the birdhouse.

## Questions

**1. What time did the clock stop each day?**

_____

_____

**2. Who wound up the clock each morning?**

_____

_____

**3. What kind of bird was inside the clock case?**

_____

_____

**4. Where did Mr. Dane hang the birdhouse?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the clock slow down and stop?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do you think Mr. Dane gave the wren a birdhouse?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

librarian: a person who works in a library
wren: a tiny brown bird with a loud song
wound: turned a key to give a clock its power
wobble: to shake from side to side
whispered: spoke in a very soft voice

## 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 Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

Square group

The tall grandfather clock in the Maple Street Library had developed a baffling problem. Every afternoon, it came to a stop at ten past three. The librarian, Mr. Dane, wound it faithfully each morning, yet by evening it always stood motionless again.

Mina and Gus both loved puzzles, so they settled on the rug and kept a close watch on the clock. At three o'clock, nothing happened. At five past, still nothing. Then, at precisely ten past, they heard a soft peep.

Gus pointed excitedly. A small brown wren was perched inside the clock case, hopping on the swinging arm. Every hop made the arm wobble, and the clock ticked slower and slower until it finally stopped.

"A bird must be visiting through that crack in the window frame," Mina whispered.

Mr. Dane smiled, because he had no wish to harm the wren. Instead, he hung a little wooden birdhouse outside the window. By the next day, the wren had moved into its new home, and the clock kept perfect time all week long.

## Questions

**1. At what time did the clock stop every afternoon?**

_____

_____

**2. Who wound up the clock every morning?**

_____

_____

**3. What kind of bird was perched inside the clock case?**

_____

_____

**4. Where did Mr. Dane hang the wooden birdhouse?**

_____

_____

**5. What caused the clock to slow down and stop?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do you think Mr. Dane built the wren a new home instead of chasing it away?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

librarian: a person who works in a library
wren: a tiny brown bird with a loud song
wound: turned a key to give a clock its power
wobble: to shake from side to side
whispered: spoke in a very soft voice

## 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 Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

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

### Circle: The Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

Easier · 129 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. At ten past three.
2. Mr. Dane, the librarian.
3. A little brown wren.
4. Outside the window.
5. The wren hopped on the swinging arm and made it wobble.
6. He wanted to keep the bird safe and still have a clock that worked.

### Triangle: The Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

This passage · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. At ten past three.
2. The librarian, Mr. Dane.
3. A small brown wren.
4. Outside the window.
5. The wren hopped on the swinging arm and made it wobble.
6. He wanted to keep the bird safe and still have a working clock.

### Square: The Library Clock That Stopped at Ten Past Three

Harder · 174 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. At ten past three.
2. The librarian, Mr. Dane.
3. A small brown wren.
4. Outside the window.
5. The wren hopped on the swinging arm and made it wobble.
6. He wanted to keep the bird safe and still have a working clock.