Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Note That Only Read in a Mirror

Circle group

In the school lost and found box, Kenji found a note. The words looked wrong. Some letters faced the wrong way. The words ran backward.

"It is a secret code," whispered his friend Bea.

Kenji turned the paper upside down. Then he held it to the window. It still made no sense. "Maybe it is in another language," he said.

Bea had a better idea. She took a small mirror from her backpack and held it by the note. In the mirror, the letters turned around. The message popped out. "Meet me by the big slide at recess. I lost my red scarf."

"The scarf is in this box!" said Kenji.

They tied the red scarf to the slide and waited. At recess, a girl named Uma ran up. She had written backward for fun. She thanked them with a big smile.

## Questions

**1. Where did Kenji find the note?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Bea take from her backpack?**

_____

_____

**3. What had the writer lost?**

_____

_____

**4. Where did they tie the scarf?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the words look wrong at first?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did they tie the scarf to the slide?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

mirror: a smooth glass that shows your reflection
backward: turned toward the back, or in the wrong order
recess: a break from lessons for play at school
scarf: a long piece of cloth worn around the neck
code: a secret way of writing a message

## 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?

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# The Note That Only Read in a Mirror

Triangle group

In the school lost and found box, Kenji found a folded note. The words on it looked all wrong. Some letters faced the wrong way, and the sentence seemed to run backward.

"It's a secret code," whispered his friend Bea.

Kenji turned the paper upside down. Then he held it up to the window. The words still made no sense. "Maybe it's in another language," he said.

Bea had a better idea. She pulled a small mirror from her backpack and held it next to the note. In the mirror, the letters turned around, and the whole message popped into view. "Meet me by the big slide at recess. I have lost my red scarf."

"Somebody is writing to a friend, not to us," said Kenji. "But the scarf is right here in the box!"

They tied the red scarf to the slide's rail and waited. At recess, a girl named Uma ran up. She had been writing backward for fun, and she thanked them both with a smile that nearly lit up the playground.

## Questions

**1. Where did Kenji find the note?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Bea take out of her backpack?**

_____

_____

**3. What did the message say the writer had lost?**

_____

_____

**4. Where did they tie the scarf?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the words look wrong at first?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do you think Kenji and Bea tied the scarf to the slide?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

mirror: a smooth glass that shows your reflection
backward: turned toward the back, or in the wrong order
recess: a break from lessons for play at school
scarf: a long piece of cloth worn around the neck
code: a secret way of writing a message

## 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 Note That Only Read in a Mirror

Square group

In the school's lost and found box, Kenji discovered a folded note whose words looked entirely wrong. Several letters faced the wrong direction, and the whole sentence seemed to run backward across the page.

"It's a secret code," whispered his friend Bea.

Kenji turned the paper upside down and then held it up to the window, but the words still made no sense. "Maybe it's written in another language," he suggested.

Bea had a better idea. She pulled a small mirror from her backpack and held it beside the note. In the mirror, the letters flipped around, and the entire message popped into view: "Meet me by the big slide at recess. I have lost my red scarf."

"Somebody is writing to a friend, not to us," Kenji observed. "But the scarf is sitting right here in this box!"

They tied the red scarf to the rail of the slide and waited. At recess, a girl named Uma came running over. She had been writing backward just for fun, and she thanked them both with a smile that nearly lit up the playground.

## Questions

**1. Where did Kenji discover the folded note?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Bea pull out of her backpack?**

_____

_____

**3. According to the message, what had the writer lost?**

_____

_____

**4. Where did Kenji and Bea tie the scarf?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the words look wrong at first?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do you think the children tied the scarf to the slide?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

mirror: a smooth glass that shows your reflection
backward: turned toward the back, or in the wrong order
recess: a break from lessons for play at school
scarf: a long piece of cloth worn around the neck
code: a secret way of writing a message

## 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 Note That Only Read in a Mirror

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

### Circle: The Note That Only Read in a Mirror

Easier · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. In the school lost and found box.
2. A small mirror.
3. A red scarf.
4. To the big slide.
5. They were written backward, so they only made sense in a mirror.
6. The note said to meet at the slide, so its owner would see it.

### Triangle: The Note That Only Read in a Mirror

This passage · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. In the school lost and found box.
2. A small mirror.
3. A red scarf.
4. To the rail of the big slide.
5. They were written backward, so they only made sense in a mirror.
6. The note said to meet at the slide, so its owner would see it.

### Square: The Note That Only Read in a Mirror

Harder · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. In the school's lost and found box.
2. A small mirror.
3. A red scarf.
4. To the rail of the big slide.
5. They were written backward, so they only made sense in a mirror.
6. The note said to meet at the slide, so its owner would be sure to see it.