Name: _____ Date: _____

Pip and the Mailbox Village

Circle group

Behind the old mailbox on Birch Lane lived a village of tiny folk. They were no taller than a thumbtack. A small girl named Pip was in charge of the mail.

Each morning, Pip pulled a stamp as big as a tablecloth into the village square. To them, letters were as big as barn doors. They used the paper for walls. They used the stamps for bright flags.

One day, a heavy package fell into the mailbox with a thud. It blocked the door. The village could not get out. The morning light could not get in.

Pip called everyone together. "We cannot move it alone," she said. "But if we all push, we can."

Forty tiny folk lined up. Pip counted, "One, two, three, push!" The package slid a little. A ray of sun shone in.

The next morning, the mail carrier found a thank-you note. It was in a tiny hand. It was the smallest note she had ever seen.

Questions

1. Where did the tiny folk live?

_____

_____

2. What was Pip's job?

_____

_____

3. What did the tiny folk use stamps for?

_____

_____

4. What problem did the heavy package cause?

_____

_____

5. How did the tiny folk fix the problem?

_____

_____

6. What does the story teach about big problems?

_____

_____

Words to know

village: a very small town
thumbtack: a short pin with a flat, round head
package: a box or parcel sent through the mail

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: _____

Pip and the Mailbox Village

Triangle group

Behind the old mailbox on Birch Lane lived a village of tiny folk. They were no taller than a thumbtack. A small girl named Pip was in charge of the mail.

Each morning, Pip tugged on a stamp the size of a tablecloth and hauled it into the village square. Letters were as big as barn doors to them. They used the paper to make walls and the stamps to make colorful flags.

One day, a heavy package fell into the mailbox with a thud. It blocked the door. The village had no way out, and the morning light could not get in.

Pip called everyone together. "We cannot move it alone," she said. "But if we all push, we can."

Forty tiny folk lined up. Pip counted, "One, two, three, push!" The package slid just far enough for a ray of sun to shine in.

The next morning, the mail carrier found a thank-you note in a tiny hand, a smaller note than any she had ever seen.

Questions

1. Where did the tiny folk live?

_____

_____

2. What was Pip's job?

_____

_____

3. What did the tiny folk use stamps for?

_____

_____

4. What problem did the heavy package cause?

_____

_____

5. How did the tiny folk solve the problem?

_____

_____

6. What does the story teach about solving big problems?

_____

_____

Words to know

village: a very small town
thumbtack: a short pin with a flat, round head
hauled: pulled something heavy with effort
package: a box or parcel sent through the mail

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: _____

Pip and the Mailbox Village

Square group

Hidden behind the old mailbox on Birch Lane lived a village of tiny folk, none of them taller than a thumbtack. A small girl named Pip was in charge of delivering the mail.

Each morning, Pip tugged a stamp the size of a tablecloth into the village square. To the tiny folk, ordinary letters were as enormous as barn doors. They used the paper to build walls and the stamps to make cheerful, colorful flags.

One day, a heavy package dropped into the mailbox with a thud and blocked the doorway. The villagers could not get out, and the morning light could not get in.

Pip gathered everyone together. "We cannot move it alone," she announced. "But if we all push at the same time, we can."

Forty tiny folk lined up along the package. Pip counted, "One, two, three, push!" The package slid just far enough for a ray of sunshine to stream inside.

The next morning, the mail carrier discovered a thank-you note written in a tiny hand, smaller than any note she had ever seen.

Questions

1. Where did the tiny folk live?

_____

_____

2. What was Pip's job in the village?

_____

_____

3. What did the tiny folk make with the stamps?

_____

_____

4. What problem did the heavy package cause?

_____

_____

5. How did the tiny folk solve the problem?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach about solving big problems?

_____

_____

Words to know

village: a very small town
thumbtack: a short pin with a flat, round head
package: a box or parcel sent through the mail

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: Pip and the Mailbox Village

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

Circle: Pip and the Mailbox Village

Easier · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. Behind the old mailbox on Birch Lane.
2. She was in charge of the mail.
3. To make bright flags.
4. It blocked the door, so they could not get out and light could not get in.
5. They all lined up and pushed together.
6. Working together can move things one person cannot.

Triangle: Pip and the Mailbox Village

This passage · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Behind the old mailbox on Birch Lane.
2. She was in charge of the mail.
3. To make colorful flags.
4. It blocked the door, so they could not get out and the light could not get in.
5. They all lined up and pushed together.
6. Working together can move things that one person cannot.

Square: Pip and the Mailbox Village

Harder · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. Hidden behind the old mailbox on Birch Lane.
2. She was in charge of delivering the mail.
3. Cheerful, colorful flags.
4. It blocked the doorway, so the villagers could not get out and light could not get in.
5. They lined up along the package and pushed at the same time.
6. Working together can move something that one person cannot move alone.