Name: _____ Date: _____

The Rowboat Named Pancake

Circle group

The rowboat was round and flat. Everyone called it Pancake. One windy morning, Lila and her little brother Sam rowed it on Willow Pond.

Splash! An oar slipped out and floated away. Pancake began to spin in slow circles. The shore was far.

"Don't panic," said Lila, but her voice shook. Under the seat lay a long fishing net. Its pole was as tall as Sam.

"Sam, hold the sides," she said. "I have a plan."

Lila stretched the net out. The oar bobbed just out of reach. She tried again. The pole nudged the oar closer. On the third try, the net scooped it up. Sam clapped.

Lila put the oar back and rowed with both arms. Pancake went straight. At the dock, she tied an orange ribbon to the oar. "Now it is easy to see," she said.

Questions

1. Why was the boat called Pancake?

_____

_____

2. What floated away?

_____

_____

3. What did Lila find under the seat?

_____

_____

4. What did Lila tie to the oar?

_____

_____

5. Why did the boat spin in circles?

_____

_____

6. Why was the orange ribbon a good idea?

_____

_____

Words to know

oar: a long pole with a flat end used to row a boat
nudged: gave a gentle push
bobbed: moved up and down on the water
scooped: lifted up something with a curved tool

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 Rowboat Named Pancake

Triangle group

The rowboat was round and flat, and everyone called it Pancake. One breezy morning, Lila and her little brother Sam rowed it out on Willow Pond.

Splash! One oar slipped out of its lock and floated away. Pancake began to turn in slow circles. The shore was far.

"Don't panic," said Lila, though her voice shook. She looked around. Under the seat lay a long fishing net with a pole as tall as Sam.

"Sam, hold on to the sides," she said. "I have a plan."

Lila stretched the net as far as her arm could go. The oar bobbed just out of reach. She tried again, and the pole's tip nudged the oar closer. On the third try, the net scooped it up. Sam clapped.

Lila slid the oar back into its lock and rowed with both arms. Pancake went straight as an arrow. When they bumped the dock, Lila tied a bright orange ribbon to the oar. "Now it will float and stay easy to see," she said.

Questions

1. Why was the boat called Pancake?

_____

_____

2. What floated away from the boat?

_____

_____

3. What tool did Lila find under the seat?

_____

_____

4. What did Lila tie to the oar at the end?

_____

_____

5. Why did the boat turn in slow circles?

_____

_____

6. Why was the orange ribbon a good idea?

_____

_____

Words to know

oar: a long pole with a flat end used to row a boat
breezy: with a light wind blowing
nudged: gave a gentle push
bobbed: moved up and down on the water
scooped: lifted up something with a curved tool

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 Rowboat Named Pancake

Square group

The little rowboat was round and flat, and everyone in town affectionately called it Pancake. One breezy morning, Lila and her younger brother Sam rowed it out onto Willow Pond.

Without warning, one oar slipped from its lock and drifted away across the water. Pancake began to rotate in slow, lazy circles, and the shore seemed very far away.

"Don't panic," said Lila, although her voice trembled. She glanced around the boat. Beneath the seat lay a long fishing net attached to a pole nearly as tall as Sam.

"Sam, hold tightly to the sides," she instructed. "I have a plan."

Lila reached out with the net as far as her arm could stretch, but the oar bobbed just beyond it. She tried again, and the tip of the pole nudged the oar a little closer. On the third attempt, the net scooped it right up, and Sam cheered.

Lila slid the oar back into its lock and rowed with both arms, and Pancake traveled straight as an arrow. After they bumped against the dock, she tied a bright orange ribbon to the oar. "Now it will float and be easy to spot," she said.

Questions

1. Why did everyone call the rowboat Pancake?

_____

_____

2. What drifted away from the boat?

_____

_____

3. What did Lila find beneath the seat?

_____

_____

4. What did Lila tie to the oar at the dock?

_____

_____

5. Why did the boat turn in slow circles?

_____

_____

6. Why was the bright orange ribbon a clever idea?

_____

_____

Words to know

oar: a long pole with a flat end used to row a boat
breezy: with a light wind blowing
nudged: gave a gentle push
bobbed: moved up and down on the water
scooped: lifted up something with a curved tool

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 Rowboat Named Pancake

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

Circle: The Rowboat Named Pancake

Easier · 140 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. It was round and flat.
2. An oar.
3. A long fishing net.
4. An orange ribbon.
5. It had only one oar to push it.
6. A bright color helps people see the oar if it falls in again.

Triangle: The Rowboat Named Pancake

This passage · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. It was round and flat.
2. One of the oars.
3. A long fishing net.
4. A bright orange ribbon.
5. It had only one oar to push it.
6. A bright color helps people see the oar if it drops in the water again.

Square: The Rowboat Named Pancake

Harder · 195 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. It was round and flat.
2. One of the oars.
3. A long fishing net on a pole.
4. A bright orange ribbon.
5. It had only one oar to push it.
6. A bright color helps people spot the oar if it falls into the water again.