Name: _____ Date: _____

Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

Circle group

The night was freezing. A thin sheet of ice covered Ruth's front steps. Her mom had left early for work. Ruth had to make the steps safe before her little brother came out.

First, she tried the shovel. Scrape, scrape. It only scratched the ice. Then she stomped. She almost slipped.

"Think, Ruth," she said.

She remembered the bag of sand in the garage. Mom said sand helps feet grip. Ruth scooped a cup and sprinkled it on each step.

She tested a step with her boot. It did not slide. She tested the next. Safe!

Her brother came out. He did not see any ice. Ruth put the sand away and smiled all the way to the bus.

Questions

1. What covered the front steps?

_____

_____

2. Why did Ruth do the job?

_____

_____

3. What happened with the shovel?

_____

_____

4. What did Ruth find in the garage?

_____

_____

5. Why does sand help on ice?

_____

_____

6. Why did her brother not see the ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

shovel: a tool with a wide blade for digging or scooping
sprinkled: scattered in tiny bits
grip: to hold on tightly without slipping

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: _____

Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

Triangle group

After a freezing night, a thin sheet of ice covered the front steps of Ruth's house. Her mom had left early for work, so Ruth had a job to do. She had to make the steps safe before her little brother came out.

First, she tried the shovel. Scrape, scrape. It only scratched the surface of the ice. Then she tried stomping, and she almost slipped.

"Think, Ruth," she said to herself.

She remembered the bag of sand in the garage. Her mom had said that sand gives feet something to grip. Ruth scooped a cup of it and sprinkled it over each step like she was salting a pizza.

She tested the first step with her boot. It did not slide. She tested the next one. Safe. Soon every step felt rough and sturdy.

When her brother stepped outside, he never noticed the ice at all. Ruth put the sand back in the garage, and she smiled all the way to the bus.

Questions

1. What covered the front steps?

_____

_____

2. Why did Ruth have to handle the job herself?

_____

_____

3. What happened when Ruth tried the shovel?

_____

_____

4. What did Ruth find in the garage to fix the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why does sand help on icy steps?

_____

_____

6. Why did the brother never notice the ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

shovel: a tool with a wide blade for digging or scooping
surface: the outside or top layer of something
sprinkled: scattered in tiny bits
grip: to hold on tightly without slipping
sturdy: strong and not likely to wobble

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: _____

Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

Square group

After a freezing night, a thin sheet of ice had formed across the front steps of Ruth's house. Her mother had left early for work, so the responsibility fell to Ruth. She needed to make the steps safe before her little brother came outside.

First, she tried the shovel. Scrape, scrape. It merely scratched the surface of the ice. Next she attempted stomping on it, and she nearly slipped.

"Think, Ruth," she told herself.

Then she remembered the bag of sand in the garage. Her mother had explained that sand gives feet something to grip. Ruth scooped up a cup of it and sprinkled it over each step, the way a cook might salt a pizza.

She tested the first step with her boot, and it did not slide. She tested the next one, and that one was safe too. Soon every step felt rough and sturdy.

When her brother stepped outside, he never even noticed the ice. Ruth returned the sand to the garage and smiled all the way to the bus.

Questions

1. What had formed across the front steps?

_____

_____

2. Why did the responsibility fall to Ruth?

_____

_____

3. What happened when Ruth tried the shovel?

_____

_____

4. What did Ruth remember in the garage?

_____

_____

5. Why does sand make icy steps safer?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ruth's brother never notice the ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

shovel: a tool with a wide blade for digging or scooping
surface: the outside or top layer of something
sprinkled: scattered in tiny bits
grip: to hold on tightly without slipping
sturdy: strong and not likely to wobble

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: Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

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

Circle: Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

Easier · 119 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.1

1. A thin sheet of ice.
2. Her mom had left early for work.
3. It only scratched the ice.
4. A bag of sand.
5. It helps feet grip so they do not slide.
6. Ruth made the steps safe first.

Triangle: Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

This passage · 164 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. A thin sheet of ice.
2. Her mom had left early for work.
3. It only scratched the surface of the ice.
4. A bag of sand.
5. It gives feet something to grip so they do not slide.
6. Ruth made the steps safe before he came out.

Square: Ruth and the Icy Front Steps

Harder · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. A thin sheet of ice.
2. Her mother had left early for work.
3. It merely scratched the surface of the ice.
4. A bag of sand.
5. It gives feet something to grip, so they do not slide.
6. Ruth had made the steps safe before he came outside.