Name: _____ Date: _____

The Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

Circle group

Every summer, the old ferry dock had a game. Ms. Alba, the dockmaster, left a clue on a card. This year it said, "Count from the red lantern. The seventh plank is not what it seems."

Pia and her brother Leo went to the red lantern. They counted the planks one by one, up to seven.

The seventh plank looked like the rest. Pia pressed on it. Nothing. Leo pushed one end. The other end tipped up!

Under it was a dry tin box. Inside were binoculars and a note. It said, "For the first sharp eyes to find me. Count the boats."

The children took turns looking. They counted nine sailboats and one green barge. Then they wrote their names in the notebook in the tin.

Questions

1. Who left the clue?

_____

_____

2. Where did the children start to count?

_____

_____

3. What was in the tin box?

_____

_____

4. How many sailboats did they count?

_____

_____

5. How did Leo find out the plank was special?

_____

_____

6. Why did the note ask for sharp eyes?

_____

_____

Words to know

dockmaster: the person in charge of a dock
plank: a long, flat piece of wood
lantern: a light you can carry or hang up
binoculars: tubes with lenses that make far things look close
barge: a flat boat that carries heavy loads

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 Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

Triangle group

Every summer, the old ferry dock had a game. The dockmaster, Ms. Alba, left a clue on a card by the ticket booth. This year, the card read, "Count from the red lantern. The seventh plank is not what it seems."

Pia and her brother Leo walked to the red lantern at the end of the dock. They counted the planks aloud, one by one, all the way up to seven.

The seventh plank looked just like the others. Pia knelt down and pressed on it. Nothing. Leo pushed on one end, and the other end tipped up like a seesaw.

Under the plank was a dry tin box. Inside it sat a small pair of binoculars and a note. The note said, "For the first sharp eyes to find me. Use them to count the boats."

Pia and Leo took turns looking across the water. They counted nine sailboats and one slow green barge. Then they wrote their names in the little notebook at the bottom of the tin.

Questions

1. Who left the clue by the ticket booth?

_____

_____

2. Where did Pia and Leo start counting planks?

_____

_____

3. What was inside the tin box?

_____

_____

4. How many sailboats did the children count?

_____

_____

5. How did Leo find out the plank was special?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the note asked for sharp eyes?

_____

_____

Words to know

dockmaster: the person in charge of a dock
plank: a long, flat piece of wood
lantern: a light you can carry or hang up
binoculars: tubes with lenses that make far things look close
barge: a flat boat that carries heavy loads

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 Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

Square group

Every summer, the old ferry dock hosted a game of its own. The dockmaster, Ms. Alba, would leave a clue on a card beside the ticket booth. This year, the card read, "Count from the red lantern. The seventh plank is not what it seems."

Pia and her younger brother Leo strolled to the red lantern at the far end of the dock and counted the planks aloud, one by one, all the way up to seven.

The seventh plank appeared identical to all the others. Pia knelt and pressed down on it, but nothing happened. Then Leo pushed on one end, and the opposite end tipped upward like a seesaw.

Beneath the plank was a dry tin box. Inside it were a small pair of binoculars and a note: "For the first sharp eyes to find me. Use them to count the boats."

The children took turns peering across the shimmering water. They counted nine sailboats and one slow green barge. Afterward, they signed their names in the little notebook tucked at the bottom of the tin.

Questions

1. Who left a clue on a card beside the ticket booth?

_____

_____

2. Where did Pia and Leo begin counting the planks?

_____

_____

3. What did the children find inside the tin box?

_____

_____

4. How many sailboats did the children count?

_____

_____

5. How did Leo discover that the seventh plank was special?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the note asked for sharp eyes?

_____

_____

Words to know

dockmaster: the person in charge of a dock
plank: a long, flat piece of wood
lantern: a light you can carry or hang up
binoculars: tubes with lenses that make far things look close
barge: a flat boat that carries heavy loads

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 Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

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

Circle: The Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

Easier · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Ms. Alba, the dockmaster.
2. At the red lantern.
3. Binoculars and a note.
4. Nine.
5. He pushed one end, and the other end tipped up.
6. You needed to look and count with care to find it.

Triangle: The Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

This passage · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. The dockmaster, Ms. Alba.
2. At the red lantern.
3. A pair of binoculars and a note.
4. Nine.
5. He pushed one end, and the other end tipped up.
6. Finding the clue took careful looking and counting.

Square: The Seventh Plank on the Ferry Dock

Harder · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. The dockmaster, Ms. Alba.
2. At the red lantern.
3. A small pair of binoculars and a note.
4. Nine.
5. He pushed on one end, and the opposite end tipped upward.
6. Finding the clue took careful looking and counting.