Name: _____ Date: _____

Tess Turns the Rope

Circle group

Every recess, the girls jumped rope on the blacktop. Tess kept the best beat. So she always turned one end of the rope. Her friend Dina turned the other end. Everyone else took a turn to jump.

Tess never complained. She turned and chanted. She watched the jumpers' feet. Her own feet tapped on the ground a little.

One windy day, Dina saw her feet. "Tess," she said, "when did you last jump?"

Tess shrugged. "Somebody has to turn."

"Wait," said Dina. She looked at the fence. She tied her end of the rope to the post. She made a double knot. "Now the fence can turn with me. We need just one turner."

Tess stepped into the middle. The rope swung over her head. She jumped. Her sneakers went smack, smack, smack.

"Ten in a row!" cheered the girls.

After that, the girls made a chart. Everyone got a turn to turn, a turn to jump, and a turn to call the chant. Tess liked jumping best.

Questions

1. Why did Tess always turn the rope?

_____

_____

2. What did Dina see on the windy day?

_____

_____

3. What did Dina tie to the fence post?

_____

_____

4. How many jumps did Tess do in a row?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tess say that somebody has to turn?

_____

_____

6. How did the chart make recess fairer?

_____

_____

Words to know

blacktop: a hard, dark paved ground at a school
chanted: said words again and again in a steady beat
complained: said that something was not fair or not good
knot: a tight tie made by looping rope or string
beat: the steady rhythm of a song or chant

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: _____

Tess Turns the Rope

Triangle group

Every recess, the girls on the blacktop jumped rope. Tess was the best at keeping the beat, so she always turned one end of the rope. Her friend Dina turned the other end. Everyone else took a turn jumping.

Tess never complained. She turned and chanted, and she watched the jumpers' feet. Her own feet tapped on the ground, just a little.

One windy day, Dina saw those tapping feet. "Tess," she said, "when was the last time you jumped?"

Tess shrugged. "Somebody has to turn."

"Wait," said Dina. She looked at the fence. Then she tied her end of the rope to the post, tight with a double knot. "Now the fence can turn with me. We only need one turner at a time."

Tess stepped into the middle. The rope swung over her head. She counted the beat in her mind and jumped. Her sneakers hit the ground with a smack, smack, smack.

"Ten in a row!" cheered the girls.

From then on, the group made a chart. Everyone took a turn at turning, a turn at jumping, and a turn at calling out the chant. Tess did all three, and she liked the jumping best.

Questions

1. Why did Tess always turn the rope?

_____

_____

2. What did Dina notice on the windy day?

_____

_____

3. What did Dina tie to the fence post?

_____

_____

4. How many jumps did Tess do in a row?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tess say, Somebody has to turn?

_____

_____

6. How did the chart make recess fairer?

_____

_____

Words to know

blacktop: a hard, dark paved ground at a school
chanted: said words again and again in a steady beat
complained: said that something was not fair or not good
knot: a tight tie made by looping rope or string
beat: the steady rhythm of a song or chant

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: _____

Tess Turns the Rope

Square group

At every recess, a group of girls gathered on the blacktop to jump rope. Tess was the best at keeping a steady beat, so she always turned one end of the rope while her friend Dina turned the other. Everyone else took turns jumping in the middle.

Tess never once complained. She turned and chanted and watched the jumpers' feet, although her own feet tapped on the pavement, just a little.

One blustery day, Dina noticed those tapping feet. "Tess," she asked, "when was the last time you got to jump?"

Tess shrugged. "Somebody has to turn."

"Hold on," said Dina. She glanced at the fence, and then she tied her end of the rope to the post with a tight double knot. "Now the fence can turn with me. We only need one turner at a time."

Tess stepped into the middle as the rope swung over her head. She counted the beat in her mind and jumped, and her sneakers landed with a smack, smack, smack.

"Ten in a row!" the girls cheered.

From then on, the group made a chart so that everyone took a turn at turning, a turn at jumping, and a turn at calling out the chant. Tess did all three jobs, but she liked the jumping best.

Questions

1. Why did Tess always turn one end of the rope?

_____

_____

2. What did Dina notice on the blustery day?

_____

_____

3. What did Dina fasten to the fence post?

_____

_____

4. How many jumps in a row did Tess complete?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Tess answered that somebody has to turn?

_____

_____

6. In what way did the chart make recess fairer for the group?

_____

_____

Words to know

blacktop: a hard, dark paved ground at a school
chanted: said words again and again in a steady beat
complained: said that something was not fair or not good
knot: a tight tie made by looping rope or string
beat: the steady rhythm of a song or chant

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: Tess Turns the Rope

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

Circle: Tess Turns the Rope

Easier · 168 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.7

1. She kept the best beat.
2. Tess's feet tapping.
3. One end of the rope.
4. Ten.
5. She thought the turner's job had to be done, so she did not ask for a turn to jump.
6. Everyone got a turn at turning, jumping and calling the chant.

Triangle: Tess Turns the Rope

This passage · 198 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. She was the best at keeping the beat.
2. That Tess's feet were tapping.
3. One end of the jump rope.
4. Ten.
5. She thought the turner's job could not be skipped, so she did not ask for a turn to jump.
6. Everyone got a turn at turning, jumping and calling out the chant.

Square: Tess Turns the Rope

Harder · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. She was the best at keeping a steady beat.
2. That Tess's feet were tapping.
3. One end of the jump rope.
4. Ten.
5. She believed the turner's job could not be skipped, so she never asked for a turn to jump.
6. Everyone got a turn at turning, jumping and calling out the chant.