Name: _____ Date: _____

The Class Turtle

Circle group

Room 12 had a pet turtle named Pickle. Each Friday, one kid got to take Pickle home for the weekend. This week it was Marco's turn.

Marco was scared. He had never had a pet. "What if I do it wrong?" he asked his sister.

"Just read the care card," she said.

Marco read it two times. Pickle needed fresh water, a few green leaves, and a warm lamp. Marco set up the tank by the window. He gave Pickle a leaf of lettuce. Pickle pulled his head into his shell. Marco thought something was wrong.

"He is hiding," said his sister. "Give him time."

So Marco sat still and waited. After ten minutes, a small head poked out. Pickle took one slow step, then one more. He nibbled the leaf. Marco grinned.

On Monday, Marco took the tank back to school. "Pickle was shy at first," he told the class. "But then he got brave. I think he likes people who wait for him."

The class nodded. Marco was surprised. He wished it was Friday again.

Questions

1. Who is Pickle?

_____

_____

2. What three things did Pickle need?

_____

_____

3. Why did Marco think something was wrong?

_____

_____

4. How did Marco feel at the start? How did he feel at the end?

_____

_____

5. What did Marco learn about shy animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

tank: a glass box where an animal lives
nibble: to take small bites

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 Class Turtle

Triangle group

Room 12 had a pet turtle named Pickle. Every Friday, one student got to take Pickle home for the weekend. This week, it was Marco's turn.

Marco was nervous. He had never had a pet before. "What if I do something wrong?" he asked his sister.

"Just read the care card," she said.

Marco read it twice. Pickle needed fresh water, a few green leaves, and a warm lamp. Marco set up the tank by the window and gave Pickle a lettuce leaf. Pickle slowly tucked his head into his shell, and Marco thought something was wrong.

"He's hiding," said his sister. "Give him time."

So Marco sat quietly and waited. After ten minutes, a small head poked out. Pickle took one slow step, then another, and nibbled the leaf. Marco grinned.

On Monday, Marco carried the tank back to school. "Pickle was shy at first," he told the class. "But then he got brave. I think he likes being around people if they are patient."

Everyone nodded. Marco was surprised to find that he wished it was Friday again.

Questions

1. Who is Pickle?

_____

_____

2. What three things did Pickle need, according to the care card?

_____

_____

3. Why did Marco think something was wrong with Pickle?

_____

_____

4. How did Marco's feelings change from the start of the story to the end?

_____

_____

5. What lesson did Marco learn about shy animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

nervous: a little scared or worried about something new
tank: a glass box where an animal lives
nibble: to take small bites
patient: able to wait calmly without getting upset

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 Class Turtle

Square group

Room 12 had a pet turtle named Pickle. Every Friday, one student was given the privilege of taking Pickle home for the weekend, and this week it was Marco's turn.

Marco felt extremely nervous, because he had never been responsible for a pet before. "What if I accidentally do something wrong?" he asked his older sister.

"Just follow the care card," she advised.

Marco studied the card twice. According to the instructions, Pickle required fresh water, a few green leaves, and a warm lamp. Marco carefully arranged the tank beside the window and offered Pickle a lettuce leaf. Immediately, Pickle slowly withdrew his head into his shell, and Marco was convinced that something had gone terribly wrong.

"He's only hiding," his sister explained. "Give him some time."

So Marco sat silently and waited. After ten long minutes, a small head cautiously emerged. Pickle took one slow step, and then another, and finally nibbled the lettuce. Marco grinned.

On Monday, Marco carried the tank back to school. "Pickle was shy at first," he explained to the class, "but eventually he became brave. I think he enjoys being around people, as long as they are patient."

Everyone nodded in agreement. To his own surprise, Marco discovered that he was already wishing it was Friday again.

Questions

1. Who is Pickle?

_____

_____

2. According to the care card, what three things did Pickle require?

_____

_____

3. What made Marco convinced that something had gone wrong?

_____

_____

4. How did Marco's feelings change between the beginning and the end of the story?

_____

_____

5. What lesson did Marco learn about caring for shy animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

nervous: a little scared or worried about something new
tank: a glass box where an animal lives
nibble: to take small bites
patient: able to wait calmly without getting upset

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 Class Turtle

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

Circle: The Class Turtle

Easier · 176 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. The pet turtle in Room 12.
2. Fresh water, a few green leaves, and a warm lamp.
3. Pickle pulled his head into his shell.
4. At the start he was scared. At the end he felt proud and wished he could have Pickle again.
5. If you sit still and wait, they come out and feel safe with you.

Triangle: The Class Turtle

This passage · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. The pet turtle in Room 12.
2. Fresh water, a few green leaves, and a warm lamp.
3. Pickle tucked his head into his shell.
4. He began nervous about taking care of a pet. By the end he felt proud and wished he could have Pickle again.
5. If you are patient and quiet, they will come out of hiding and feel safe around you.

Square: The Class Turtle

Harder · 212 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. The pet turtle that belongs to Room 12.
2. Fresh water, a few green leaves, and a warm lamp.
3. Pickle slowly withdrew his head into his shell.
4. He began extremely nervous about caring for a pet. By the end he felt proud and was already wishing he could have Pickle again.
5. If you are patient and quiet, they will come out of hiding and feel safe around you.