Name: _____ Date: _____

The Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

Circle group

On her birthday, Mina's great-aunt gave her a small, flat box with no lid. Inside was a gold minute. It looked like a coin. It ticked very softly.

"Use it when you need it," said her great-aunt. "But only once."

Mina kept the minute in her coat pocket. She thought of using it at her piano recital, when she felt nervous. She thought of using it when the school bus left without her. But each time, she did fine without it.

Then one rainy morning, she saw a baby bird on the sidewalk. It had fallen from its nest. A bicycle was rolling toward it.

Mina took out the gold minute and squeezed it. Everything went still, even the raindrops. She scooped up the bird and set it in a dry tree hole. Then she let go. The world moved again. The bicycle passed by.

Her pocket was empty, but Mina smiled all day.

Questions

1. What did Mina's great-aunt give her?

_____

_____

2. How many times could Mina use the minute?

_____

_____

3. When did Mina think about using it but did not?

_____

_____

4. What did Mina see on the sidewalk?

_____

_____

5. What happened when Mina squeezed the minute?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Mina saved the minute for the bird?

_____

_____

Words to know

recital: a show where a person plays music for an audience
nervous: worried and a little scared
scooped: picked up carefully with a hand
sidewalk: a path for walking beside a road

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 Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

Triangle group

On her birthday, Mina's great-aunt gave her a small, flat box with no lid. Inside lay a single gold minute. It looked like a coin, and it ticked very quietly.

"Use it when you need it," said her great-aunt. "But only once."

Mina kept the minute in her coat pocket. She thought about using it during her piano recital, when she was nervous. She thought about using it when the school bus drove away without her. But each time, she made it through without the minute.

Then one rainy morning, she saw a baby bird on the sidewalk. It had fallen from a nest, and a bicycle was rolling toward it.

Mina took out the gold minute and squeezed it. Everything went still, even the raindrops. She scooped up the bird, set it in a dry tree hole, and let go. The world began to move again, and the bicycle passed by.

The pocket was empty, but Mina smiled all day.

Questions

1. What did Mina's great-aunt give her?

_____

_____

2. How many times could Mina use the minute?

_____

_____

3. When did Mina think about using it but did not?

_____

_____

4. What did Mina see on the sidewalk?

_____

_____

5. What happened when Mina squeezed the minute?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Mina saved the minute for the bird?

_____

_____

Words to know

recital: a show where a person plays music for an audience
nervous: worried and a little scared
scooped: picked up carefully with a hand
sidewalk: a path for walking beside a road

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 Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

Square group

On her birthday, Mina's great-aunt presented her with a small, flat box that had no lid. Inside lay a single gold minute that resembled a coin and ticked very quietly.

"Use it when you truly need it," said her great-aunt. "But you may use it only once."

Mina kept the minute in her coat pocket. She considered using it during her piano recital, when her hands trembled with nerves. She considered using it when the school bus rumbled away without her. But each time, she managed to get through the day without the minute.

Then, on a rainy morning, she noticed a baby bird on the sidewalk. It had tumbled from its nest, and a bicycle was rolling straight toward it.

Mina pulled out the gold minute and squeezed it. Everything went perfectly still, even the falling raindrops. She scooped up the bird, tucked it into a dry hollow in a tree, and let go. The world began to move again, and the bicycle sped harmlessly past.

Her pocket was empty, but Mina smiled for the rest of the day.

Questions

1. What did Mina's great-aunt give her on her birthday?

_____

_____

2. How many times was Mina allowed to use the minute?

_____

_____

3. When did Mina consider using it but decide not to?

_____

_____

4. What did Mina notice on the sidewalk?

_____

_____

5. What happened when Mina squeezed the gold minute?

_____

6. Why do you think Mina chose to use the minute for the bird?

Words to know

recital: a show where a person plays music for an audience
scooped: picked up carefully with a hand
sidewalk: a path for walking beside a road

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 Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

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

Circle: The Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

Easier · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. A small, flat box with a gold minute inside.
2. Only once.
3. At her piano recital, or when the bus left without her.
4. A baby bird that had fallen from its nest.
5. Everything went still, even the raindrops.
6. Helping a small animal in danger mattered more than her own worries.

Triangle: The Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

This passage · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. A small, flat box holding a gold minute.
2. Only once.
3. During her piano recital, or when the bus left without her.
4. A baby bird that had fallen from a nest.
5. Everything went still, even the raindrops.
6. She felt that helping a small, helpless animal was more important than her own worries.

Square: The Extra Minute in Mina's Pocket

Harder · 182 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. A small, flat box with a single gold minute inside.
2. Only once.
3. During her piano recital, or when the school bus left without her.
4. A baby bird that had tumbled from its nest.
5. Everything went still, even the falling raindrops.
6. She felt that saving a helpless animal was more important than easing her own worries.