Name: _____ Date: _____

The Heron and the Shared Shallows

Circle group

Gracie the heron stood in the shallow end of the pond each day. She was a patient fisher. She wanted the whole shallow end for herself.

"This is my spot," she told a young duck. "Go away."

The duck swam off. A turtle came next. Gracie told him to go too. The shallows got quiet and empty. Gracie stood still. But the fish knew she was there. They stayed deep, far from her beak.

A week went by. Gracie caught nothing. Her stomach growled.

Then the duck came back with her ducklings. They splashed and dived. The fish got scared. They darted into the shallows to hide. Gracie struck, and she caught a silver fish.

The turtle laughed. "Your spot is better with neighbors," he said.

Gracie nodded. After that, she shared the shallows with all. There were fish for everyone.

Questions

1. Where did Gracie stand every day?

_____

_____

2. Who did Gracie tell to go away?

_____

_____

3. Why did the fish stay in the deep water?

_____

_____

4. How long did Gracie catch nothing?

_____

_____

5. What made the fish dart into the shallows?

_____

_____

6. Why did the turtle say the spot is better with neighbors?

_____

_____

7. What did Gracie change after that?

_____

_____

Words to know

heron: a tall bird with long legs that catches fish
shallows: the part of a pond where the water is not deep
patient: able to wait calmly for a long time
darted: moved quickly and suddenly
ducklings: baby ducks

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 Heron and the Shared Shallows

Triangle group

Gracie the heron stood in the shallow end of the pond every day. She was a patient fisher, and she wanted the whole shallow end for herself.

"This is my spot," she told a young duck. "Go away."

The duck paddled off. A turtle came next, and Gracie told him to leave too. Soon the shallows were quiet and empty. Gracie stood very still. But the fish seemed to know she was there. They stayed deep in the water, far from her beak.

A whole week passed, and Gracie caught nothing. Her stomach growled.

Then the duck came back with her ducklings. They splashed and dived. The fish got scared and darted into the shallows to hide. Gracie struck, and she caught a silver one.

The turtle laughed. "Your spot works better with neighbors," he said.

Gracie nodded. After that, she shared the shallows with everyone. There were always fish for all of them.

Questions

1. Where did Gracie stand every day?

_____

_____

2. Who did Gracie tell to leave?

_____

_____

3. Why did the fish stay in the deep water?

_____

_____

4. How long did Gracie go without catching anything?

_____

_____

5. What made the fish dart into the shallows?

_____

_____

6. Why did the turtle say the spot works better with neighbors?

_____

_____

7. What did Gracie change after that?

_____

_____

Words to know

heron: a tall bird with long legs that catches fish
shallows: the part of a pond where the water is not deep
patient: able to wait calmly for a long time
darted: moved quickly and suddenly
ducklings: baby ducks

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 Heron and the Shared Shallows

Square group

Gracie the heron stood in the shallow end of the pond every single day. She was a patient fisher, and she wanted the entire shallow end to herself.

"This is my spot," she informed a young duck. "Go away at once."

The duck paddled off. A turtle arrived next, and Gracie ordered him to leave as well. Soon the shallows were quiet and empty. Gracie stood perfectly still, but the fish seemed to sense her presence. They remained deep in the water, far from her sharp beak.

A whole week passed, and Gracie caught nothing at all. Her stomach growled loudly.

Then the duck returned with her ducklings. They splashed and dived about, and the frightened fish darted into the shallows to hide. Gracie struck quickly and caught a silver one.

The turtle chuckled. "Your spot works much better with neighbors," he said.

Gracie nodded thoughtfully. From then on, she shared the shallows with everyone, and there were always plenty of fish for all of them.

Questions

1. Where did Gracie stand every single day?

_____

_____

2. Who did Gracie order to leave?

_____

_____

3. Why did the fish remain in the deep water?

_____

_____

4. How long did Gracie go without catching anything?

_____

_____

5. What made the fish dart into the shallows?

_____

_____

6. Why did the turtle say the spot works better with neighbors?

_____

_____

7. What did Gracie change from then on?

_____

_____

Words to know

heron: a tall bird with long legs that catches fish
shallows: the part of a pond where the water is not deep
patient: able to wait calmly for a long time
darted: moved quickly and suddenly
ducklings: baby ducks

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 Heron and the Shared Shallows

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

Circle: The Heron and the Shared Shallows

Easier · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. In the shallow end of the pond.
2. A young duck and a turtle.
3. They knew the heron was there.
4. A week.
5. The ducklings splashed and dived, and the fish got scared.
6. The others stirred the water and sent the fish to Gracie.
7. She shared the shallows with everyone.

Triangle: The Heron and the Shared Shallows

This passage · 154 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. In the shallow end of the pond.
2. A young duck and a turtle.
3. They seemed to know the heron was there.
4. A whole week.
5. The ducklings splashed and dived, and the fish got scared.
6. The other animals stirred the water and drove the fish to Gracie.
7. She shared the shallows with everyone.

Square: The Heron and the Shared Shallows

Harder · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. In the shallow end of the pond.
2. A young duck and a turtle.
3. They seemed to sense that the heron was there.
4. A whole week.
5. The ducklings splashed and dived, and the fish became frightened.
6. The other animals stirred the water and drove the fish toward Gracie.
7. She shared the shallows with everyone.