Name: _____ Date: _____

The Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

Circle group

High in the mountains, a village sat far from the next town. A path wound over a pass. In winter, the path was icy. No one wanted to take letters across.

Then a llama named Luz stepped up. "I can do it," she said. "My feet are sure. My back is strong."

The villagers tied a small pack of letters on her back. Luz began to climb. Each step was careful. The wind blew cold. Snow swirled by her ears. Once, her hoof slipped on ice. She stopped. She took a breath. She set it down more gently.

Hours later, she got to the town. A baker took the letters. He gave her a warm handful of oats. Then Luz took a new pack home.

Soon the villagers counted on Luz each week. A mother got a letter from her son. A girl got a card from her aunt.

Luz felt proud. She had a job that fit her strengths. It made each day brighter.

Questions

1. Where was the village?

_____

_____

2. Why did no one want to take letters over the pass?

_____

_____

3. What did the villagers tie on Luz's back?

_____

_____

4. What did Luz do when her hoof slipped?

_____

_____

5. What did the baker give Luz?

_____

_____

6. Why was Luz a good choice for the job?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pass: a path through a gap between mountains
hoof: the hard foot of an animal such as a llama
swirled: moved around in circles
strengths: the things that you are good at

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 Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

Triangle group

High in the mountains, a village sat far from the next town. A winding path led over a pass. In winter, the path was icy. Nobody wanted to carry letters across it.

Then a llama named Luz stepped forward. "I can do it," she said. "My feet are sure, and my back is strong."

The villagers tied a small pack of letters to her back. Luz began to climb. Each step was careful. The wind blew cold, and snow swirled around her ears. Once, her hoof slipped on a patch of ice. She stopped, took a breath, and set it down again more gently.

Hours later, she came to the town. A baker took the letters and gave her a warm handful of oats. Then Luz carried a new pack home.

Soon the villagers counted on Luz every week. A mother got a letter from her son. A girl got a birthday card from her aunt.

Luz was proud. She had found a job that fit her strengths, and it made everyone's day brighter.

Questions

1. Where was the village?

_____

_____

2. Why did nobody want to carry letters over the pass?

_____

_____

3. What did the villagers tie to Luz's back?

_____

_____

4. What did Luz do when her hoof slipped?

_____

_____

5. What did the baker give Luz?

_____

_____

6. Why was Luz a good choice for the job?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pass: a path through a gap between mountains
winding: twisting and turning like a snake
hoof: the hard foot of an animal such as a llama
swirled: moved around in circles
strengths: the things that you are good at

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 Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

Square group

High in the mountains, a small village sat far away from the nearest town. A winding path led over a narrow pass, but in winter that path turned icy and treacherous. Nobody was willing to carry letters across it.

Then a llama named Luz stepped forward. "I can do it," she said confidently. "My feet are sure, and my back is strong."

The villagers fastened a small pack of letters to her back, and Luz began her climb. Every step was careful. The wind blew bitterly cold, and snow swirled around her ears. Once, her hoof slipped on a patch of ice. She paused, took a slow breath, and set it down again more gently.

Hours later, she arrived in the town. A baker accepted the letters and rewarded her with a warm handful of oats. Then Luz carried a fresh pack back home.

Before long, the villagers depended on Luz every week. A mother received a letter from her son, and a young girl received a birthday card from her aunt.

Luz felt proud. She had found a job that suited her strengths, and it brightened everyone's day.

Questions

1. Where was the village?

_____

_____

2. Why did nobody want to carry letters over the pass?

_____

_____

3. What did the villagers fasten to Luz's back?

_____

_____

4. What did Luz do when her hoof slipped on the ice?

_____

_____

5. What did the baker give Luz as a reward?

_____

_____

6. Why was Luz a good choice for the job?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pass: a path through a gap between mountains
winding: twisting and turning like a snake
hoof: the hard foot of an animal such as a llama
swirled: moved around in circles
strengths: the things that you are good at

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 Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

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

Circle: The Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

Easier · 165 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. High in the mountains.
2. The path was icy in winter.
3. A small pack of letters.
4. She stopped, took a breath, and set it down more gently.
5. A warm handful of oats.
6. Her feet were sure and her back was strong.
7. Using your strengths can help many people.

Triangle: The Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

This passage · 174 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. High in the mountains.
2. The path was icy in winter.
3. A small pack of letters.
4. She stopped, took a breath, and set it down more gently.
5. A warm handful of oats.
6. Her feet were sure and her back was strong.
7. Using your strengths can help many people.

Square: The Llama Who Carried the Mountain Mail

Harder · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. High in the mountains, far from the nearest town.
2. The path turned icy and dangerous in winter.
3. A small pack of letters.
4. She paused, took a slow breath, and set it down more gently.
5. A warm handful of oats.
6. Her feet were sure and her back was strong.
7. Using your strengths can help many people.