Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

Circle group

Mabel the mole lived under a clover field. She had a snug tunnel. She had a bed of dry leaves. She had a pantry of worms. At night she heard the owls talk about the stars.

"They are like tiny lanterns," said one owl. "I wish you could see them."

Mabel could not see well. So she made a telescope. She got a long, hollow reed from the creek. She put a drop of dew on a leaf for a lens. Then she poked her nose out and pointed the reed at the sky.

She saw only a gray blur.

Mabel sighed. A hedgehog named Hob rolled over. "I cannot see stars, too," he said. "But the owls tell me about them. I can imagine them."

That night, Mabel sat with the owls. They said one star was red. They said one was blue. Mabel pictured them over her field.

She never saw a star. But she learned that a friend's words can show you far-off things.

Questions

1. Where did Mabel live?

_____

_____

2. What did the owls say stars were like?

_____

_____

3. What did Mabel use for her telescope?

_____

_____

4. What did Mabel see through her telescope?

_____

_____

5. How did Mabel learn about the stars?

_____

_____

6. Why was Mabel sad when she looked through the reed?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

telescope: a tool that makes far-off things look closer
hollow: empty inside, like a tube
lens: a curved piece of glass or water that bends light
snug: small, warm and cozy
blur: something that looks smudged and not clear

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 Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

Triangle group

Mabel the mole lived under a clover field. She had a snug tunnel, a bed of dry leaves, and a pantry full of worms. But every night she heard the owls talk about the stars.

"They are like tiny lanterns," said one owl. "I wish you could see them."

Mabel could not see well. So she decided to build a telescope. She rolled a long, hollow reed out of the creek. She polished a drop of dew on a leaf to make a lens. Then she poked her nose out and pointed the reed at the sky.

She saw nothing but a gray blur.

Mabel sighed. Then a hedgehog named Hob rolled over. "I cannot see stars either," he said. "But the owls tell me what they look like, and I can imagine them."

So that night, Mabel sat with the owls and listened. They said one star was red and one was blue. Mabel pictured them glowing over her field.

She never saw a single star. But she learned that a friend's words can show you far-off things.

Questions

1. Where did Mabel live?

_____

_____

2. What did the owls say stars were like?

_____

_____

3. What did Mabel use for her telescope?

_____

_____

4. What did Mabel see through her telescope?

_____

_____

5. How did Mabel finally learn about the stars?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mabel feel sad when she looked through the reed?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

telescope: a tool that makes far-off things look closer
hollow: empty inside, like a tube
lens: a curved piece of glass or water that bends light
snug: small, warm and cozy
blur: something that looks smudged and not clear

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 Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

Square group

Mabel the mole lived beneath a clover field, in a snug tunnel with a bed of dry leaves and a pantry full of worms. Every night she overheard the owls discussing the stars.

"They are like tiny lanterns hanging in the dark," said one owl. "I wish you could see them."

Mabel's eyesight was poor, so she decided to build a telescope. She dragged a long, hollow reed out of the creek and polished a drop of dew on a leaf to serve as a lens. Then she poked her nose out of the ground and aimed the reed at the sky.

She saw nothing but a gray blur.

Mabel sighed deeply. Just then, a hedgehog named Hob rolled over to her. "I cannot see the stars either," he admitted. "But the owls describe them to me, and I can imagine them quite well."

So that night, Mabel sat among the owls and listened closely. They explained that one star was red and another was blue. Mabel pictured them glowing high above her field.

She never saw a single star. But she discovered that a friend's words can show you faraway things.

Questions

1. Where did Mabel live?

_____

_____

2. What did the owl say stars were like?

_____

_____

3. What did Mabel use to build her telescope?

_____

_____

4. What did Mabel see when she looked through the reed?

_____

_____

5. How did Mabel finally come to know about the stars?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mabel sigh deeply after using the reed?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

telescope: a tool that makes far-off things look closer
hollow: empty inside, like a tube
lens: a curved piece of glass or water that bends light
snug: small, warm and cozy
blur: something that looks smudged and not clear

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 Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

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

Circle: The Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

Easier · 168 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.9

1. In a tunnel under a clover field.
2. Tiny lanterns.
3. A long, hollow reed.
4. Only a gray blur.
5. The owls told her what they looked like.
6. Her telescope did not work, so she still could not see stars.
7. Friends can share things with us that we cannot find alone.

Triangle: The Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

This passage · 180 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. In a tunnel under a clover field.
2. Tiny lanterns.
3. A long, hollow reed.
4. Only a gray blur.
5. The owls told her what they looked like.
6. Her homemade telescope did not work, and she still could not see the stars.
7. Friends can share things with us that we cannot find alone.

Square: The Mole Who Wanted a Telescope

Harder · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. In a snug tunnel beneath a clover field.
2. Tiny lanterns hanging in the dark.
3. A long, hollow reed and a drop of dew for a lens.
4. Nothing but a gray blur.
5. The owls described what they looked like.
6. Her homemade telescope failed, and she still could not see the stars.
7. Friends can share things with us that we cannot find alone.