Name: _____ Date: _____

The Note Under the Floorboard

Circle group

It was the last night in the old house. Priya looked at her empty closet. One board in the floor was loose. She used to hide small treasures there.

Now the spot was bare. Priya felt sad. Soon a new kid would sleep in this room. That kid would not know her.

So Priya wrote a note. "Hello, new kid. The third stair squeaks. The window sticks, but push hard. The best sunset is on the back step. I was happy here. I hope you are too." She drew a star. She wrote her new address.

She tucked the note under the board. She pressed the board down. Click!

Three weeks later, a letter came. A boy named Owen wrote, "I found your note. I saw the sunset from the back step. You were right."

Priya hung his letter on her wall.

Questions

1. Where was the loose board?

_____

_____

2. What did Priya say about the third stair?

_____

_____

3. Where did Priya put the note?

_____

_____

4. What did Owen do after he found the note?

_____

_____

5. How did Owen know where to send his letter?

_____

_____

6. Why did Priya write to a kid she did not know?

_____

_____

Words to know

loose: not held on tightly, so it can move
treasures: special things that are worth keeping
bare: empty, with nothing on it
tucked: pushed into a small space to keep it safe

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 Note Under the Floorboard

Triangle group

On the last night in the old house, Priya looked at her empty closet. One board in the floor was loose. She had always used it as a secret spot for small treasures.

Now the spot was bare, and Priya felt a lump in her throat. Another kid would sleep in this room soon. That kid would never know she had lived here.

So Priya tore a page from her notebook. She wrote, "Hello, new kid. The third stair squeaks. The window sticks, but a good push fixes it. The best sunset is from the back step. I was happy here. I hope you will be too." At the bottom she drew a small star and added her new address.

She folded the note and tucked it under the board. Then she pressed the board down until it clicked.

Three weeks later, a letter came to her new house. The envelope had a drawing of a squeaky stair on it. Inside, a boy named Owen had written, "I found your note. I watched the sunset from the back step. You were right."

Priya hung his letter above her new desk.

Questions

1. Where did Priya find the loose board?

_____

_____

2. What did Priya say about the third stair?

_____

_____

3. Where did Priya hide the note?

_____

_____

4. What did Owen say he did after he found the note?

_____

_____

5. How did Owen know where to send his letter?

_____

_____

6. Why did Priya write a note to a kid she had never met?

_____

_____

Words to know

loose: not held on tightly, so it can move
treasures: special things that are worth keeping
bare: empty, with nothing on it
tucked: pushed into a small space to keep it safe
envelope: the paper cover that holds a letter

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 Note Under the Floorboard

Square group

On the final night in the old house, Priya stood in her bare closet and gazed at the one board in the floor that had always been loose. For years, she had used that hidden space as a secret place for keeping small treasures.

Now that the hiding spot was empty, Priya felt a lump rise in her throat. Before long, another child would sleep in this very room, and that child would never find out that she had once lived here.

Priya tore a clean page from her notebook and began to write. "Hello, new kid. The third stair squeaks. The window sticks, but a firm push will fix it. The best sunset in the whole neighborhood is from the back step. I was happy here, and I hope you will be as well." At the bottom she sketched a small star and carefully added her new address.

She folded the note, tucked it beneath the board, and pressed the board down until it clicked into place.

Three weeks later, an unexpected letter arrived at her new house. The envelope was decorated with a drawing of a squeaky stair. Inside, a boy named Owen had written, "I found your note. I watched the sunset from the back step, and you were absolutely right."

Priya proudly hung his letter above her new desk.

Questions

1. Where did Priya discover the loose board?

_____

_____

2. According to Priya's note, what happens when someone steps on the third stair?

_____

_____

3. Where did Priya hide the note she wrote?

_____

_____

4. What did Owen say he did after reading the note?

_____

_____

5. How was Owen able to write back to Priya?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Priya wrote to a child she had never met?

_____

_____

Words to know

loose: not held on tightly, so it can move
treasures: special things that are worth keeping
bare: empty, with nothing on it
tucked: pushed into a small space to keep it safe
envelope: the paper cover that holds a letter

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 Note Under the Floorboard

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

Circle: The Note Under the Floorboard

Easier · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.4

1. In the floor of Priya's closet.
2. That it squeaks.
3. Under the loose board.
4. He watched the sunset from the back step.
5. Priya wrote her new address on the note.
6. She wanted the next kid to feel welcome and happy there.

Triangle: The Note Under the Floorboard

This passage · 190 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. In the floor of her closet.
2. That it squeaks.
3. Under the loose board.
4. He watched the sunset from the back step.
5. Priya wrote her new address at the bottom of the note.
6. She wanted the next kid to feel welcome and to know that someone had been happy there.

Square: The Note Under the Floorboard

Harder · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. In the floor of her closet.
2. It squeaks.
3. Beneath the loose board in the closet floor.
4. He watched the sunset from the back step.
5. She had added her new address at the bottom of the note.
6. She hoped the next child would feel welcome and would be as happy in the house as she had been.