Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pelican and the Borrowed Net

Circle group

Penny the pelican lived on a wood pier. Each morning she scooped fish in her big bill. One day she saw a fisherman's net on a post. It was made of thick green string.

"That would help me catch more fish," Penny thought. She took it. No one saw her.

Out on the water, the net tangled in her wings. A string snapped. Then another snapped. Back at the pier, the net had a big hole.

Penny ate no fish that day. Her stomach felt like a heavy knot. She had taken a thing that was not hers. Now it was broken.

She waited by the post. When the fisherman came, her voice shook. She told him what she did.

The fisherman looked at the hole. He looked at her. "Thank you for telling me," he said. "Next time, just ask."

Penny held the net while he mended it. The next day, he gave her a small silver fish. She had learned that the truth is the first step to making things right.

Questions

1. Where did Penny live?

_____

_____

2. What did Penny take from the post?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the net on the water?

_____

_____

4. What did Penny do when the fisherman came?

_____

_____

5. What did the fisherman say to do next time?

_____

_____

6. Why did Penny feel a heavy knot in her stomach?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pier: a long platform that reaches out over the water
tangled: twisted together in a messy knot
mended: fixed something that was torn or broken
bill: the beak of a bird

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 Pelican and the Borrowed Net

Triangle group

Penny the pelican lived on a wooden pier. Every morning she scooped up fish in her big bill. One day she saw a fisherman's net hanging on a post. It was woven from thick green string.

"That would help me catch more fish," Penny thought. She took it when no one was looking.

Out on the water, the net tangled in her wings. A string snapped. Then another string snapped. By the time she got back to the pier, the net had a big hole.

Penny did not eat any fish that day. She felt a heavy knot in her stomach. She had taken something that was not hers, and now it was broken.

She waited by the post until the fisherman came. Her voice shook as she told him what happened.

The fisherman looked at the hole and then at her. "Thank you for telling me," he said. "Next time, just ask."

Penny held the net while he mended it. The next morning, he gave her a small silver fish. She had learned that telling the truth is the first step to making things right.

Questions

1. Where did Penny live?

_____

_____

2. What did Penny take from the post?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the net out on the water?

_____

_____

4. What did Penny do when the fisherman came?

_____

_____

5. What did the fisherman say Penny should do next time?

_____

_____

6. Why did Penny feel a heavy knot in her stomach?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pier: a long platform that reaches out over the water
woven: made by crossing strings or threads over and under
tangled: twisted together in a messy knot
mended: fixed something that was torn or broken
bill: the beak of a bird

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 Pelican and the Borrowed Net

Square group

Penny the pelican lived on a weathered wooden pier, and every morning she scooped fish out of the water with her enormous bill. One day she noticed a fisherman's net draped over a post. It was woven from thick green string.

"That would help me catch far more fish," Penny thought. Without asking, she snatched it while no one was looking.

Out on the water, however, the net became hopelessly tangled in her wings. One string snapped, and then another string snapped. By the time she returned to the pier, the net had a large hole in it.

Penny did not eat a single fish that day. A heavy knot twisted in her stomach. She had taken something that did not belong to her, and now it was ruined.

She waited beside the post until the fisherman arrived. Her voice trembled as she explained what had happened.

The fisherman examined the hole and then looked at her. "Thank you for being honest with me," he said. "Next time, simply ask."

Penny held the net steady while he mended it. The following morning, he gave her a small silver fish. She had learned that telling the truth is the first step toward making things right.

Questions

1. Where did Penny live?

_____

_____

2. What did Penny take from the post?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the net out on the water?

_____

_____

4. What did Penny do when the fisherman arrived?

_____

_____

5. What did the fisherman say Penny should do next time?

_____

_____

6. Why did a heavy knot twist in Penny's stomach?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pier: a long platform that reaches out over the water
woven: made by crossing strings or threads over and under
tangled: twisted together in a messy knot
mended: fixed something that was torn or broken
bill: the beak of a bird

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 Pelican and the Borrowed Net

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

Circle: The Pelican and the Borrowed Net

Easier · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. On a wood pier.
2. A fisherman's net.
3. It tangled in her wings and strings snapped, so it had a big hole.
4. She told him what she did.
5. Ask.
6. She felt bad for taking a thing that was not hers and breaking it.
7. Telling the truth is the first step to making things right.

Triangle: The Pelican and the Borrowed Net

This passage · 186 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. On a wooden pier.
2. A fisherman's net.
3. It tangled in her wings and strings snapped, leaving a big hole.
4. She told him what had happened.
5. Ask.
6. She felt guilty for taking something that was not hers and breaking it.
7. Telling the truth is the first step to making things right.

Square: The Pelican and the Borrowed Net

Harder · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. On a weathered wooden pier.
2. A fisherman's net.
3. It tangled in her wings and strings snapped, leaving a large hole.
4. She explained what had happened.
5. Simply ask.
6. She felt guilty for taking something that did not belong to her and ruining it.
7. Telling the truth is the first step toward making things right.