Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pump With No Home

Circle group

On Birch Street, one red bike pump was for everyone. It had a squeaky handle. It hung on a hook in nobody's garage. People borrowed it and brought it back, or so they said.

On Saturday, Ben had a flat tire. He had a race that day. He ran to the hook. It was empty.

Ben knocked on four doors. Mr. Cole said Mrs. Fenn had it. Mrs. Fenn said the twins had it. The twins said Mr. Cole had it. Round and round it went.

At last Ben found the pump in the grass behind Mrs. Fenn's house. Her grandson had used it for a pool float. He had forgotten it there.

Ben fixed his tire in time. After the race, he nailed a board to the lamp post. He tied a basket to it. He hung one clothespin for each house on the street. Each one had a name.

Now when you borrow the pump, you clip your clothespin to the basket. If it goes missing, everyone knows where to look.

Questions

1. What color was the pump?

_____

_____

2. Why did Ben need the pump on Saturday?

_____

_____

3. Where did Ben find the pump?

_____

_____

4. How did the pump get into the grass?

_____

_____

5. What did Ben put on the lamp post after the race?

_____

_____

6. How do the clothespins help the neighbors?

_____

_____

Words to know

borrowed: took something to use and planned to give it back
flat: with no air inside

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 Pump With No Home

Triangle group

On Birch Street, one red bike pump belonged to everybody. It had a squeaky handle, and it hung on a hook in nobody's garage. People just borrowed it and brought it back, or so they said.

On Saturday morning, Ben had a flat tire and a race to ride in. He ran to the hook. It was empty.

Ben knocked on four doors. Mr. Cole thought Mrs. Fenn had it. Mrs. Fenn thought the twins had it. The twins said they had given it to Mr. Cole. Round and round it went, like a game nobody wanted to play.

At last Ben found the pump in the grass behind Mrs. Fenn's house. Her grandson had used it to blow up a pool float and then forgotten it. The red paint was wet with dew.

Ben fixed his tire just in time. After the race, he did something smart. He nailed a board to the lamp post and tied a basket to it. Beside the basket he hung a row of clothespins, one for each house on the street. Each name was written in marker.

Now, whoever borrowed the pump clipped a clothespin to the basket. The next time it went missing, everybody knew exactly where to look.

Questions

1. What color was the pump on Birch Street?

_____

_____

2. Why did Ben need the pump on Saturday morning?

_____

_____

3. Where did Ben find the pump?

_____

_____

4. How had the pump ended up in the grass?

_____

_____

5. What did Ben build after the race?

_____

_____

6. How do the clothespins help the neighbors?

_____

_____

Words to know

borrowed: took something to use and planned to give it back
flat: with no air inside
dew: tiny drops of water that form on grass at night
clothespins: small clips that hold things in place
belonged: was owned by or shared by a person or group

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 Pump With No Home

Square group

On Birch Street, a single red bike pump belonged to the whole neighborhood. It had a squeaky handle, and it hung on a hook in nobody's garage in particular. Everyone borrowed it and promised to return it, or so they claimed.

On Saturday morning, Ben discovered that his bike had a flat tire, and a race was about to begin. He hurried to the hook, but it was completely empty.

Ben knocked on four different doors. Mr. Cole believed that Mrs. Fenn had it. Mrs. Fenn was certain that the twins had it. The twins insisted they had handed it to Mr. Cole. The blame traveled round and round, like a game that nobody wanted to play.

Finally, Ben found the pump lying in the grass behind Mrs. Fenn's house. Her grandson had used it to blow up a pool float and then forgotten all about it. The red paint was damp with morning dew.

Ben repaired his tire just in time for the race. Afterward, he did something clever. He nailed a board to the lamp post and tied a basket to it. Beside the basket he hung a row of clothespins, one for every house on the street, each with a family name written in marker.

From then on, whoever borrowed the pump clipped a clothespin to the basket. The next time it went missing, the whole street would know exactly where to start looking.

Questions

1. What color was the pump that belonged to the neighborhood?

_____

_____

2. Why did Ben urgently need the pump on Saturday morning?

_____

_____

3. Where did Ben finally find the missing pump?

_____

_____

4. How did the pump end up lying in the grass?

_____

_____

5. What did Ben put together on the lamp post after the race?

_____

_____

6. In what way does the clothespin system help the neighbors find the pump?

_____

_____

Words to know

borrowed: took something to use and planned to give it back
flat: with no air inside
dew: tiny drops of water that form on grass at night
clothespins: small clips that hold things in place
belonged: was owned by or shared by a person or group

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 Pump With No Home

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

Circle: The Pump With No Home

Easier · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. Red.
2. He had a flat tire and a race to ride in.
3. In the grass behind Mrs. Fenn's house.
4. Mrs. Fenn's grandson used it for a pool float and forgot it.
5. A board with a basket and clothespins.
6. They show who has the pump, so people know where to look.

Triangle: The Pump With No Home

This passage · 207 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. Red.
2. He had a flat tire and a race to ride in.
3. In the grass behind Mrs. Fenn's house.
4. Mrs. Fenn's grandson used it for a pool float and forgot it.
5. A board with a basket and clothespins on the lamp post.
6. They show who borrowed the pump, so people know where to look when it is missing.

Square: The Pump With No Home

Harder · 237 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. Red.
2. His bike had a flat tire and a race was about to begin.
3. In the grass behind Mrs. Fenn's house.
4. Mrs. Fenn's grandson used it to blow up a pool float and forgot about it.
5. A board with a basket and a row of clothespins.
6. A clothespin shows who borrowed it, so everyone knows where to start looking.