Name: _____ Date: _____

The Spelling Bee Jitters

Circle group

Eli practiced all week for the class spelling bee. But he stood up in front of everyone. His hands shook. His mind went blank.

"Your word is because," said Miss Park.

Eli could not think of one letter. His face felt hot. He looked at his shoes.

Then he thought of what his sister taught him. When you feel nervous, take a slow breath. He breathed in for three counts. He breathed out for three counts. The room felt quieter.

"Can you use the word in a sentence?" Eli asked. Miss Park did. Eli said the letters slowly: b, e, c, a, u, s, e.

"Correct!" said Miss Park. The class clapped. Eli smiled. He was still a little nervous. But he knew he could do it.

Questions

1. What did Eli do all week to get ready?

_____

_____

2. What word did Miss Park give Eli?

_____

_____

3. What did Eli's sister teach him to do when nervous?

_____

_____

4. What did Eli ask Miss Park to do?

_____

_____

5. How can you tell Eli was nervous at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did the room feel quieter after Eli breathed slowly?

_____

_____

Words to know

practiced: did something again and again to get better
blank: empty, with nothing in it
nervous: a little afraid or worried
breath: the air you take in and let out
correct: right, with no mistakes

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 Spelling Bee Jitters

Triangle group

Eli had practiced all week for the class spelling bee, but when he stood up in front of everyone, his hands began to shake and his mind went blank.

"Your word is because," said Miss Park.

Eli could not remember a single letter. His face felt hot, and he looked down at his shoes.

Then he remembered what his sister had taught him. When you feel nervous, you should take a slow breath. He breathed in for three counts and out for three counts, and the room seemed quieter.

"Can you use the word in a sentence?" Eli asked. Miss Park did, and Eli began to say the letters slowly: b, e, c, a, u, s, e.

"Correct!" said Miss Park. The class clapped, and Eli smiled. He was still a little nervous, but now he knew that he could handle it.

Questions

1. What did Eli do all week to get ready?

_____

_____

2. What word did Miss Park give Eli?

_____

_____

3. What did Eli's sister teach him to do when he felt nervous?

_____

_____

4. What did Eli ask Miss Park to do?

_____

_____

5. How do you know Eli was nervous at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did the room seem quieter after Eli breathed slowly?

_____

_____

Words to know

practiced: did something again and again to get better
blank: empty, with nothing in it
nervous: a little afraid or worried
breath: the air you take in and let out
correct: right, with no mistakes

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 Spelling Bee Jitters

Square group

Eli had practiced diligently all week for the class spelling bee, but when he rose to his feet in front of the whole room, his hands began to tremble and his mind went completely blank.

"Your word is because," said Miss Park.

Eli could not recall a single letter. His face grew hot, and he stared down at his shoes.

Then he remembered the advice his sister had given him. When you feel nervous, you should take a slow, deep breath. He breathed in for three counts and out for three counts, and gradually the room seemed quieter.

"Could you use the word in a sentence?" Eli asked. Miss Park obliged, and Eli began to spell the word slowly: b, e, c, a, u, s, e.

"Correct!" said Miss Park. The class applauded, and Eli smiled. He was still a little nervous, but now he knew that he was able to handle it.

Questions

1. How did Eli prepare for the spelling bee?

_____

_____

2. Which word did Miss Park give Eli?

_____

_____

3. What advice had Eli's sister given him for nervous moments?

_____

_____

4. What did Eli ask Miss Park to do before he spelled the word?

_____

_____

5. What details show that Eli felt nervous at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did the room seem quieter after Eli took slow breaths?

_____

_____

Words to know

practiced: did something again and again to get better
blank: empty, with nothing in it
nervous: a little afraid or worried
breath: the air you take in and let out
correct: right, with no mistakes

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 Spelling Bee Jitters

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

Circle: The Spelling Bee Jitters

Easier · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0

1. He practiced for the spelling bee.
2. Because.
3. Take a slow breath.
4. Use the word in a sentence.
5. His hands shook, his mind went blank, and his face felt hot.
6. He felt calmer and could think.

Triangle: The Spelling Bee Jitters

This passage · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. He practiced for the spelling bee.
2. Because.
3. Take a slow breath.
4. Use the word in a sentence.
5. His hands shook, his mind went blank, and his face felt hot.
6. He felt calmer, so he could think clearly.

Square: The Spelling Bee Jitters

Harder · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. He practiced all week.
2. Because.
3. To take a slow, deep breath.
4. Use the word in a sentence.
5. His hands trembled, his mind went blank, and his face grew hot.
6. He became calmer, so he could think clearly.