Name: _____ Date: _____

The Third Chair at the Lunch Table

Circle group

Mia and Zoe sat together at lunch. They had done it since first grade. They shared a bag of pretzels.

One Monday, Zoe brought a new girl to the table. Her name was Hana. Hana had a green lunch box. She told jokes about her dog. Zoe laughed a lot. Mia sat still. She felt like a spare shoe.

On Tuesday, Mia sat alone at the end. Zoe saw her. After lunch, Zoe walked over. "Did I do something wrong?" she asked.

"You laughed more with her than with me," said Mia.

"I am sorry," said Zoe. "I wanted Hana to feel welcome. I forgot you."

"Next time, tell me the plan," said Mia.

On Wednesday, Zoe said, "We have three chairs today. One for each of us."

Mia smiled. She put the pretzels in the middle. Hana said, "I have a dog joke for each of you." Mia laughed.

Questions

1. Who did Zoe bring to the table on Monday?

_____

_____

2. What did Hana joke about?

_____

_____

3. Where did Mia sit on Tuesday?

_____

_____

4. What did Mia ask Zoe to do next time?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mia feel like a spare shoe?

_____

_____

6. How did Zoe show she cared about Mia on Wednesday?

_____

_____

Words to know

pretzels: crunchy, salty snacks that are often twisted
spare: extra, not needed right now
welcome: treated kindly when you arrive

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 Third Chair at the Lunch Table

Triangle group

Mia and Zoe had sat together at lunch since first grade. They always saved two seats and shared one bag of pretzels.

One Monday, Zoe brought a new girl named Hana to the table. Hana had a bright green lunch box. She told funny jokes about her little dog. Zoe laughed and laughed. Mia sat very still and chewed her sandwich. She felt like a spare shoe.

On Tuesday, Mia ate at the far end of the table by herself. Zoe noticed. After lunch, she walked over. "Did I do something wrong?" she asked.

Mia's face felt hot. "You laughed more with her than with me," she said.

"I am sorry," said Zoe. "I wanted Hana to feel welcome, and I forgot about you."

"Next time, tell me the plan first," said Mia.

On Wednesday, Zoe pointed at the table. "Today we have three chairs," she said. "I saved one for each of us."

Mia smiled and slid the pretzels to the middle. Hana held up her green lunch box. "I have one dog joke for each of you," she said. A laugh bubbled up in Mia before she could stop it.

Questions

1. Who did Zoe bring to the lunch table on Monday?

_____

_____

2. What did Hana joke about?

_____

_____

3. Where did Mia eat on Tuesday?

_____

_____

4. What did Mia ask Zoe to do next time?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mia feel like a spare shoe on Monday?

_____

_____

6. How did Zoe show she cared about Mia on Wednesday?

_____

_____

Words to know

pretzels: crunchy, salty snacks that are often twisted
spare: extra, not needed right now
noticed: saw or became aware of something
welcome: treated kindly when you arrive
bubbled: rose up like bubbles in a drink

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 Third Chair at the Lunch Table

Square group

Mia and Zoe had been sitting together at lunch ever since the first grade. They always saved two seats side by side and shared a single bag of pretzels between them.

One Monday, Zoe arrived at the table with a new girl named Hana. Hana carried a bright green lunch box and told hilarious jokes about her little dog. Zoe laughed and laughed, while Mia sat perfectly still and chewed her sandwich, feeling like a spare shoe that nobody needed.

On Tuesday, Mia ate at the far end of the table all by herself. Zoe noticed, and as soon as lunch was over, she walked across the cafeteria to find her. "Did I do something wrong?" she asked gently.

Mia's face felt hot. "You laughed more with her than you ever do with me," she said.

"I am truly sorry," said Zoe. "I was so busy trying to make Hana feel welcome that I forgot about you."

"Next time, please tell me the plan before it happens," said Mia.

On Wednesday, Zoe pointed proudly at the table. "Today we have three chairs," she said. "I saved one for each of us."

Mia smiled and slid the pretzels to the middle of the table. Hana held up her green lunch box and announced, "I brought one dog joke for each of you." A laugh bubbled up inside Mia before she could possibly stop it.

Questions

1. Who did Zoe bring to the lunch table on Monday?

_____

_____

2. What were the funny jokes that Hana told about?

_____

_____

3. Where did Mia choose to eat on Tuesday?

_____

_____

4. What did Mia ask Zoe to do in the future?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mia feel like a spare shoe that nobody needed on Monday?

_____

_____

6. In what way did Zoe show on Wednesday that she valued both of her friends?

_____

_____

Words to know

pretzels: crunchy, salty snacks that are often twisted
spare: extra, not needed right now
noticed: saw or became aware of something
welcome: treated kindly when you arrive
bubbled: rose up like bubbles in a drink

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 Third Chair at the Lunch Table

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

Circle: The Third Chair at the Lunch Table

Easier · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. A new girl named Hana.
2. Her dog.
3. At the end of the table, alone.
4. To tell her the plan.
5. She felt left out while Zoe and Hana laughed together.
6. She saved a chair for each of the three girls.

Triangle: The Third Chair at the Lunch Table

This passage · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. A new girl named Hana.
2. Her little dog.
3. At the far end of the table by herself.
4. To tell her the plan first.
5. She felt left out and not needed while Zoe and Hana laughed together.
6. She saved a chair for each of the three girls.

Square: The Third Chair at the Lunch Table

Harder · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. A new girl named Hana.
2. Her little dog.
3. At the far end of the table by herself.
4. To tell her the plan before it happens.
5. She felt left out and forgotten while Zoe and Hana laughed together.
6. She saved three chairs, one for each of the girls.