Name: _____ Date: _____

Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

Circle group

Tobias was the smallest kid in the school band. He had the biggest instrument. His tuba case was almost as tall as he was. Every morning, he had to move it from the bus to the band room.

On Monday, he dragged it down the hall. Thump, thump. The case had no wheels. It scraped the floor. He was out of breath, and the bell had rung.

"You are late," said Ms. Dunn, but she was kind. "Let's fix this."

Tobias saw the cart that the lunch helpers used for milk crates. Ms. Dunn asked them, and they said yes.

The next morning, Tobias rolled the case down the hall. He was early! He played a big, round note.

Questions

1. Why was the tuba case hard to carry?

_____

_____

2. Why did the case scrape the floor?

_____

_____

3. What did the lunch helpers let Tobias use?

_____

_____

4. What happened the next morning?

_____

_____

5. How did Ms. Dunn feel about Tobias being late?

_____

_____

6. What does the story show about asking for help?

_____

_____

Words to know

tuba: a very large brass instrument that plays deep notes
band: a group of people who play music together
scraped: rubbed against something in a rough way
cart: a small thing on wheels used to carry loads
helpers: people who do jobs to make things easier

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: _____

Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

Triangle group

Tobias was the smallest kid in the school band, and he had the biggest instrument. His tuba case was almost as tall as he was. Every morning he had to get it from the bus to the band room.

On Monday, he dragged it down the hall. Thump, thump, thump. The wheels were missing, and the corner scraped the floor. By the time he got there, he was out of breath, and the bell had rung.

"You are late again," said Ms. Dunn, but she said it kindly. "Let's find a way to fix this."

Tobias thought hard. He looked at the cart that the lunch helpers used for milk crates. Ms. Dunn asked the lunch helpers, and they said yes.

The next morning, Tobias lifted the case onto the cart and rolled it all the way down the hall. He was early for the first time. He sat down, took a deep breath, and played a big, round note that shook the music stands.

Questions

1. Why was the tuba case hard for Tobias to carry?

_____

_____

2. Why did the case scrape the floor?

_____

_____

3. What did the lunch helpers let Tobias borrow?

_____

_____

4. What happened the next morning?

_____

_____

5. How did Ms. Dunn feel about Tobias being late?

_____

6. What does the story show about asking for help?

Words to know

tuba: a very large brass instrument that plays deep notes
band: a group of people who play music together
scraped: rubbed against something in a rough way
cart: a small thing on wheels used to carry loads
helpers: people who do jobs to make things easier

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: _____

Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

Square group

Tobias was the smallest child in the school band, yet he played the largest instrument of all. His tuba case was nearly as tall as he was, and every morning he had to haul it from the bus all the way to the band room.

On Monday, he dragged it down the long hallway. Thump, thump, thump. The wheels had fallen off long ago, and one corner scraped along the floor. By the time he arrived, he was completely out of breath, and the bell had already rung.

"You are late again," said Ms. Dunn, though she said it gently. "Let's work together to find a solution."

Tobias thought carefully. He remembered the cart that the lunch helpers used for hauling heavy milk crates. Ms. Dunn spoke to the lunch helpers, and they agreed to share it.

The following morning, Tobias lifted the case onto the cart and rolled it smoothly down the hallway. For the first time, he was early. He sat down, took a deep breath, and played a big, round note that made the music stands shake.

Questions

1. Why was the tuba case so hard for Tobias to carry?

_____

_____

2. Why did one corner of the case scrape the floor?

_____

_____

3. What did the lunch helpers agree to share?

_____

_____

4. What happened the following morning?

_____

_____

5. How did Ms. Dunn feel about Tobias being late?

_____

_____

6. What does the story show about asking for help?

_____

_____

Words to know

tuba: a very large brass instrument that plays deep notes
band: a group of people who play music together
scraped: rubbed against something in a rough way
cart: a small thing on wheels used to carry loads
helpers: people who do jobs to make things easier

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: Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

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

Circle: Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

Easier · 119 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. It was almost as tall as Tobias.
2. It had no wheels.
3. A cart for milk crates.
4. Tobias was early.
5. She was kind and wanted to help him.
6. The right people can help you solve a big problem.

Triangle: Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

This passage · 165 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. It was almost as tall as he was.
2. It did not have any wheels.
3. A cart they used for milk crates.
4. Tobias was early for the first time.
5. She was kind and wanted to help him fix the problem.
6. Asking the right people can solve a problem that is too big to solve alone.

Square: Tobias and the Giant Tuba Case

Harder · 180 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. It was nearly as tall as he was.
2. The wheels had fallen off.
3. Their cart for hauling milk crates.
4. Tobias was early for the first time.
5. She was gentle and wanted to help him find a solution.
6. Asking the right people can solve a problem that is too big to solve alone.