Name: _____ Date: _____

Backward on the Roller Rink

Circle group

Every Saturday, Pilar went to the roller rink with her cousins. She could skate forward. She could even do a wobbly spin. But the others could skate backward. When the music said to turn around, Pilar held the wall.

"It looks scary," she said. "I cannot see where I am going."

Her cousin Ravi showed her a trick. "Go slow. Stand by the wall. Point your toes in a little. Push your heels out, like two small half circles."

Pilar pushed. She rolled back half a step. Then she wobbled and sat down with a thump. She tried again. This time she rolled a whole step.

By the third Saturday, she could roll back one wall panel without touching it. Ravi stood behind her with a thumbs-up. "Look over your shoulder," he said. "Your head leads the way."

On the fourth Saturday, the lights turned blue. Pilar let go of the wall. She turned her shoulders and looked back. She pushed her heels out. She glided backward all around the curve.

Her cousins whooped. Pilar felt like she was flying. She did not hold the wall all day.

Questions

1. What could Pilar do on skates at first?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pilar hold the wall when the music changed?

_____

_____

3. What trick did Ravi show her?

_____

_____

4. What happened the first time she tried?

_____

_____

5. What did Ravi say about looking?

_____

_____

6. How do you know Pilar kept practicing?

_____

_____

7. Why did Pilar feel like she was flying?

_____

_____

Words to know

wobbled: rocked from side to side without balance
glided: moved along smoothly and easily
panel: one flat section of a wall

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: _____

Backward on the Roller Rink

Triangle group

Every Saturday, Pilar went to the roller rink with her cousins. She could skate forward just fine. She could even do a wobbly little spin. But everyone else could skate backward, and Pilar always clung to the wall when the music told skaters to turn around.

"It looks scary," she said. "I cannot see where I am going."

Her cousin Ravi showed her a trick. "Do not try to go fast. Stand at the wall, point your toes in a little, and push your heels out, like drawing two small half circles."

Pilar pushed. She rolled backward half a step, then wobbled and sat down with a thump. She tried again. This time she rolled a whole step before sitting down.

By the third Saturday, Pilar could roll the length of one rink panel without touching the wall. Ravi stood behind her with a thumbs-up. "Look over your shoulder," he said. "Your head leads the way."

When the song changed on the fourth Saturday, the lights turned blue and Pilar let go of the wall. She turned her shoulders, looked over her shoulder, and pushed her heels out. She glided backward all the way around the curve.

Her cousins whooped. Pilar felt like she was flying, and she did not hold the wall all day.

Questions

1. What could Pilar do on skates before this story?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pilar cling to the wall when the music changed?

_____

_____

3. What trick did Ravi teach her?

_____

_____

4. What happened on Pilar's first try?

_____

_____

5. What advice did Ravi give about looking?

_____

_____

6. How do you know that Pilar kept practicing?

_____

_____

7. Why did Pilar feel like she was flying?

_____

_____

Words to know

clung: held on tightly
wobbled: rocked from side to side without balance
glided: moved along smoothly and easily
panel: one flat section of a wall

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: _____

Backward on the Roller Rink

Square group

Every Saturday, Pilar went to the roller rink with her cousins. She could skate forward without any trouble, and she could even manage a wobbly little spin. But all of the others could skate backward, and whenever the music instructed skaters to turn around, Pilar clung to the wall.

"It looks terrifying," she admitted. "I cannot see where I am going."

Her cousin Ravi demonstrated a useful trick. "Do not try to go fast," he advised. "Stand beside the wall, angle your toes inward a little, and push your heels outward, as if you were drawing two small half circles."

Pilar pushed. She rolled backward half a step, then wobbled and landed on the floor with a thump. She tried again, and this time she rolled a whole step before sitting down.

By the third Saturday, Pilar could roll backward the length of one rink panel without touching the wall. Ravi stood behind her, giving an encouraging thumbs-up. "Look over your shoulder," he reminded her. "Your head leads the way."

When the song changed on the fourth Saturday and the lights turned blue, Pilar released the wall. She rotated her shoulders, glanced behind her, and pushed her heels outward. She glided backward all the way around the curve.

Her cousins whooped with delight. Pilar felt as though she were flying, and she never touched the wall for the rest of the afternoon.

Questions

1. What was Pilar able to do on skates before this story?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pilar cling to the wall when the music changed?

_____

_____

3. What trick did Ravi demonstrate?

_____

_____

4. What happened on Pilar's first attempt?

_____

_____

5. What advice did Ravi offer about looking?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell that Pilar kept practicing?

_____

_____

7. Why did Pilar feel as though she were flying?

_____

_____

Words to know

clung: held on tightly
wobbled: rocked from side to side without balance
glided: moved along smoothly and easily
panel: one flat section of a wall

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: Backward on the Roller Rink

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

Circle: Backward on the Roller Rink

Easier · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Skate forward and do a wobbly spin.
2. She was scared to skate backward because she could not see.
3. Point the toes in and push the heels out.
4. She rolled half a step, wobbled and sat down.
5. Look over your shoulder because your head leads the way.
6. She got better each Saturday.
7. She glided backward smoothly with no help, for the first time.

Triangle: Backward on the Roller Rink

This passage · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. Skate forward and do a wobbly little spin.
2. She was scared to skate backward because she could not see where she was going.
3. Point the toes in a little and push the heels out in half circles.
4. She rolled half a step, wobbled and sat down.
5. Look over your shoulder because your head leads the way.
6. She got better each Saturday, from half a step to a whole curve.
7. She was gliding backward smoothly and without help, which she had never done before.

Square: Backward on the Roller Rink

Harder · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. Skate forward and do a wobbly little spin.
2. She was frightened of skating backward because she could not see where she was going.
3. Angle the toes inward and push the heels outward in half circles.
4. She rolled half a step, wobbled and landed on the floor.
5. Look over your shoulder because your head leads the way.
6. She improved each Saturday, from half a step to a whole curve.
7. She was gliding backward smoothly and without help, which she had never done before.