Name: _____ Date: _____

The Bassoon Taller Than Dev

Circle group

Mr. Okafor held up the school bassoon. Dev laughed. It was almost as tall as he was. It was a brown stick with silver buttons.

"The band needs a low voice," said Mr. Okafor.

Dev took the bassoon because all the other instruments were taken. At home he blew into the reed. The sound was a loud honk. It was like a goose with a cold. His little sister ran out of the room.

Dev practiced for two weeks. The bassoon still honked. He almost gave it back.

Then one day he stopped blowing so hard. He let the air out slowly, like blowing on hot soup. A deep, round note filled the room. It was warm and funny, like a friendly bear.

His sister peeked in. "Do that again," she said.

At band practice, the other kids played the tune up high. Dev played the low notes. Mr. Okafor smiled. He said the band sounded complete.

Questions

1. Why did Dev laugh at the bassoon?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dev get the bassoon?

_____

_____

3. What did his first sound remind the writer of?

_____

_____

4. How long did Dev practice before he almost quit?

_____

_____

5. What did Dev change to make a deep note?

_____

_____

6. Why did his sister say to do it again?

_____

_____

7. Why did the band sound complete?

_____

_____

Words to know

bassoon: a tall wooden instrument that plays deep notes
reed: a thin piece of cane you blow on to make a sound
practiced: did something again and again to get better
complete: having all the parts it needs

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 Bassoon Taller Than Dev

Triangle group

When Mr. Okafor held up the school bassoon, Dev laughed out loud. It was almost as tall as he was. It looked like a brown stick with silver buttons and a curly metal pipe on top.

"Somebody has to play it," said Mr. Okafor. "The band needs a low voice."

Dev picked the bassoon because every other instrument was already taken. At home he put the reed in his mouth and blew. The sound was a loud, flat honk, like a goose with a cold. His little sister covered her ears and ran out of the room.

For two weeks Dev practiced every afternoon. Every afternoon the bassoon honked. He almost gave it back.

Then one day he stopped blowing so hard. He let the air come out slowly, the way you would blow on hot soup. A deep, round note rolled across the room. It sounded warm and a little bit funny, like a friendly bear humming.

His sister poked her head back in the door. "Do that again," she said.

At the next band practice, the other kids played the tune up high. Dev played the low notes underneath. Mr. Okafor smiled and said the band finally sounded complete.

Questions

1. Why did Dev laugh when he first saw the bassoon?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dev end up with the bassoon?

_____

_____

3. What did his first sound remind the writer of?

_____

_____

4. How long did Dev practice before he almost gave up?

_____

_____

5. What did Dev change that made the note sound deep and round?

_____

_____

6. Why did Dev's sister ask him to do it again?

_____

_____

7. Why did Mr. Okafor say the band sounded complete?

_____

_____

Words to know

bassoon: a tall wooden instrument that plays deep notes
reed: a thin piece of cane you blow on to make a sound
practiced: did something again and again to get better
complete: having all the parts it needs

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 Bassoon Taller Than Dev

Square group

When Mr. Okafor lifted the school bassoon out of its case, Dev burst out laughing. The instrument was nearly as tall as he was, a long brown tube of wood decorated with silver keys and a curling metal pipe near the top.

"Somebody must play it," Mr. Okafor said calmly. "The band is missing a low voice."

Dev ended up with the bassoon only because every other instrument had already been claimed. That evening at home, he placed the reed between his lips and blew as hard as he could. What came out was a loud, flat honk, much like a goose suffering from a cold. His little sister clapped her hands over her ears and fled from the room.

For two weeks Dev practiced every afternoon, and every afternoon the bassoon honked back at him. By the end of the second week, he was seriously thinking of returning it.

Then, one day, he stopped forcing the air. Instead he released it slowly and steadily, the way you would blow across a spoonful of hot soup. A deep, rounded note rolled across the room, warm and slightly comical, like a friendly bear humming to itself.

His sister cautiously poked her head back through the doorway. "Do that again," she begged.

At the next band practice, the other children played the melody in high, bright voices while Dev supplied the low notes underneath. Mr. Okafor grinned and announced that the band finally sounded complete.

Questions

1. Why did Dev burst out laughing when he first saw the bassoon?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dev end up with the bassoon?

_____

_____

3. What was Dev's first sound compared to?

_____

_____

4. How long did Dev practice before he considered returning the bassoon?

_____

_____

5. What change made the note deep and round?

_____

_____

6. Why did his sister beg him to play the note again?

_____

_____

7. Why did Mr. Okafor say the band sounded complete?

_____

_____

Words to know

bassoon: a tall wooden instrument that plays deep notes
reed: a thin piece of cane you blow on to make a sound
practiced: did something again and again to get better
complete: having all the parts it needs

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 Bassoon Taller Than Dev

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

Circle: The Bassoon Taller Than Dev

Easier · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. It was almost as tall as he was.
2. All the other instruments were taken.
3. A goose with a cold.
4. Two weeks.
5. He blew slowly and gently.
6. The new sound was nice, so she wanted more.
7. The band needed low notes, and Dev played them.

Triangle: The Bassoon Taller Than Dev

This passage · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. It was almost as tall as he was.
2. Every other instrument was already taken.
3. A goose with a cold.
4. About two weeks.
5. He stopped blowing so hard and let the air out slowly.
6. The new sound was pleasant, so she wanted to hear more.
7. The band needed a low voice, and Dev's bassoon played the low notes under the tune.

Square: The Bassoon Taller Than Dev

Harder · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.4

1. It was nearly as tall as he was and looked odd.
2. Every other instrument had already been claimed.
3. A goose suffering from a cold.
4. About two weeks.
5. He stopped forcing the air and let it out slowly and steadily.
6. The new sound was pleasant, so she wanted to hear it again.
7. The band needed a low voice, and Dev's bassoon supplied the low notes beneath the tune.