Name: _____ Date: _____

Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

Circle group

Every weekend, a different student took the class hamster home. This Friday, it was Owen's turn. Owen groaned. His house was full of noise. He had twin little sisters who shrieked when they played. He had a big dog who barked at the mailman.

"Biscuit will be scared," he told his mom.

"Then we will make a plan," she said.

At dinner, Owen told the rules. First, the twins could look at Biscuit, but with their hands behind their backs. Second, they had to whisper near the cage. Third, the dog stayed in the backyard.

The twins loved having jobs. Rosa, the older twin by four minutes, made a tiny maze out of toilet paper tubes. Ivy made Biscuit a name tag from a sticky note. They checked his water every hour. They tiptoed past his cage like it was a sleeping dragon.

On Monday, Owen carried Biscuit back to school. Ms. Park peered into the cage. "He looks so happy," she said. "Was it a calm weekend?"

Owen grinned. "It was a loud house," he said. "But we all helped him feel safe."

Questions

1. Whose turn was it to take the class hamster home?

_____

_____

2. Why was Owen worried about Biscuit?

_____

_____

3. What were the three rules?

_____

_____

4. What did Rosa make for Biscuit?

_____

_____

5. Why did the twins behave so well?

_____

_____

6. What did Owen mean when he said they helped Biscuit feel safe?

_____

_____

Words to know

groaned: made a low sound because of worry or annoyance
shrieked: gave a loud, high cry
maze: a set of winding paths that is hard to find a way through
peered: looked closely at something

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: _____

Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

Triangle group

Every weekend, a different student took the class hamster home, and this Friday it was Owen's turn. Owen groaned, because his house was full of noise. He had twin little sisters who shrieked when they played, and a big dog who barked at the mailman.

"Biscuit will be scared," he told his mom.

"Then we will make a plan," she said.

At dinner, Owen explained the rules. First, the twins could look at Biscuit, but only with their hands behind their backs. Second, they had to whisper near the cage. Third, the dog stayed in the backyard.

The twins loved having jobs. Rosa, the older twin by four minutes, made a tiny maze out of toilet paper tubes. Ivy gave Biscuit a name tag out of a sticky note. They checked his water every hour and tiptoed past his cage as if it were a sleeping dragon.

On Monday, Owen carried Biscuit back to school. Ms. Park peered into the cage. "He looks so happy," she said. "Did he have a calm weekend?"

Owen grinned. "It was a loud house," he said. "But we all helped him feel safe."

Questions

1. Whose turn was it to take the class hamster home?

_____

_____

2. Why was Owen worried about Biscuit?

_____

_____

3. What were the three rules?

_____

_____

4. What did Rosa make for Biscuit?

_____

_____

5. Why did the twins act so well around Biscuit?

_____

_____

6. What did Owen mean by saying they all helped Biscuit feel safe?

_____

_____

Words to know

groaned: made a low sound because of worry or annoyance
shrieked: gave a loud, high cry
maze: a set of winding paths that is hard to find a way through
peered: looked closely at something

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: _____

Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

Square group

Every weekend, a different student carried the class hamster home, and this Friday it was Owen's turn. Owen groaned. His house was famous for its noise. He had twin little sisters who shrieked whenever they played, and an enormous dog who barked furiously at the mailman.

"Biscuit will be terrified," he told his mom.

"Then we will make a plan," she said.

At dinner, Owen announced the rules. First, the twins could look at Biscuit, but only with their hands clasped behind their backs. Second, they had to whisper near the cage. Third, the dog would stay in the backyard.

The twins loved having jobs. Rosa, the older twin by four minutes, built a tiny maze out of toilet paper tubes, and Ivy fashioned a name tag for Biscuit from a sticky note. They checked his water every hour and tiptoed past his cage as though it contained a sleeping dragon.

On Monday, Owen carried Biscuit back to school. Ms. Park peered into the cage. "He looks so happy," she said. "Did he have a calm weekend?"

Owen grinned. "It was a loud house," he said. "But we all worked together to help him feel safe."

Questions

1. Whose turn was it to bring the class hamster home that Friday?

_____

_____

2. Why was Owen concerned about taking Biscuit home?

_____

_____

3. What were the three rules Owen announced at dinner?

_____

_____

4. What did Rosa build for Biscuit?

_____

_____

5. Why did the twins behave so carefully around Biscuit?

_____

_____

6. What did Owen mean when he said they all worked together to help Biscuit feel safe?

_____

_____

Words to know

groaned: made a low sound because of worry or annoyance
shrieked: gave a loud, high cry
maze: a set of winding paths that is hard to find a way through
peered: looked closely at something

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: Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

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

Circle: Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

Easier · 184 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. Owen's.
2. His house was loud, with shrieking twins and a barking dog.
3. Look with hands behind backs, whisper near the cage, and keep the dog outside.
4. A tiny maze out of toilet paper tubes.
5. They loved having jobs and felt proud to help.
6. The house was loud, but the family worked together to keep him calm.

Triangle: Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

This passage · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. Owen's.
2. His house was loud, with shrieking twin sisters and a barking dog.
3. Look with hands behind backs, whisper near the cage, and keep the dog in the backyard.
4. A tiny maze out of toilet paper tubes.
5. They loved having jobs and felt proud to help.
6. Even though the house was loud, the family worked together to keep the hamster calm.

Square: Biscuit the Hamster Visits a Loud House

Harder · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. Owen's.
2. His house was loud, with shrieking twin sisters and a furiously barking dog.
3. Look with hands behind backs, whisper near the cage, and keep the dog in the backyard.
4. A tiny maze out of toilet paper tubes.
5. They loved having jobs and felt proud to help.
6. Although the house was loud, the whole family cooperated to keep the hamster calm.