Name: _____ Date: _____

The Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

Circle group

A bowerbird named Rufus spent every morning on his bower. A bower is a little stage of sticks. Rufus wanted his to be the best in the forest. He put blue berries, blue bottle tops, and one blue feather in it. Nothing could be in his bower unless it was blue.

One day a small wren landed nearby. She had a plain gray feather in her beak. "I found this for you," she said. "It is the softest thing in the forest."

Rufus frowned. "It is not blue," he said. "It does not belong."

The wren flew away. The feather fell to the ground by the bower. That night a cold wind blew. Rufus shivered on his branch. Berries and bottle tops are hard and cold. The gray feather was soft and warm.

In the morning Rufus put it in the middle of his bower. A good collection is not about matching. It is about what you are glad to have.

Questions

1. What is a bower?

_____

_____

2. What color did Rufus want for his bower?

_____

_____

3. What did the wren bring to Rufus?

_____

_____

4. Why did Rufus say the feather did not belong?

_____

_____

5. What made Rufus change his mind?

_____

_____

6. How do you think the wren felt when Rufus frowned?

_____

_____

Words to know

bower: a little stage of sticks built by a bowerbird
collection: a group of things gathered together

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 Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

Triangle group

A bowerbird named Rufus spent every morning decorating his bower. A bower is a little stage of sticks, and Rufus wanted his to be the finest in the forest. He lined it with blue berries, blue bottle tops, and one blue feather he had found. He would not allow a single thing that was not blue.

One afternoon a small wren landed nearby. She held a plain gray feather in her beak. "I found this for you," she said. "It was the softest thing in the forest."

Rufus frowned. "It is not blue," he said. "It does not belong."

The wren said nothing and flew away, and the feather drifted to the ground by the edge of the bower. That night a cold wind blew through the trees. Rufus shivered on his branch, and he looked at his bower. Berries and bottle tops are hard and cold. The gray feather lay in the dust, soft and warm.

In the morning Rufus carried it to the very center of the bower. A fine collection, he decided, is not about matching. It is about what you are glad to have.

Questions

1. What is a bower?

_____

_____

2. What color did Rufus want everything in his bower to be?

_____

_____

3. What gift did the wren bring to Rufus?

_____

_____

4. Why did Rufus say the feather did not belong?

_____

_____

5. What made Rufus change his mind about the feather?

_____

_____

6. What do you think the wren felt when Rufus frowned?

_____

_____

Words to know

bower: a little stage of sticks built by a bowerbird
decorating: making a place look nice with extra things
drifted: moved slowly and gently through the air
collection: a group of things gathered together

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 Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

Square group

A bowerbird named Rufus devoted every morning to decorating his bower. A bower is a little stage built from sticks, and Rufus was determined that his would be the finest in the entire forest. He lined it with blue berries, blue bottle tops, and a single blue feather that he had found. He would not permit one thing that was not blue.

One afternoon a small wren landed nearby, holding a plain gray feather in her beak. "I found this for you," she said. "It was the softest thing in the whole forest."

Rufus frowned. "It is not blue," he said stiffly. "It does not belong here."

The wren said nothing and flew away, and the feather drifted down beside the edge of the bower. That night a bitter wind blew through the trees, and Rufus shivered on his branch as he gazed at his collection. Berries and bottle tops are hard and cold, but the gray feather lay in the dust, soft and warm.

At dawn Rufus carried it to the very center of his bower. A fine collection, he finally decided, is not about matching at all. It is about the things you are truly glad to have.

Questions

1. What is a bower, according to the story?

_____

_____

2. What color was Rufus determined to have in his bower?

_____

_____

3. What gift did the wren offer to Rufus?

_____

_____

4. Why did Rufus claim that the feather did not belong?

_____

_____

5. What caused Rufus to change his opinion of the feather?

_____

_____

6. How might the wren have felt when Rufus frowned at her gift?

_____

_____

Words to know

bower: a little stage of sticks built by a bowerbird
decorating: making a place look nice with extra things
drifted: moved slowly and gently through the air
collection: a group of things gathered together

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 Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

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

Circle: The Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

Easier · 161 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. A little stage of sticks that a bowerbird decorates.
2. Blue.
3. A plain gray feather.
4. It was not blue.
5. A cold wind made him see that the feather was soft and warm.
6. Hurt or sad, because she flew away without a word.

Triangle: The Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

This passage · 188 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. A little stage of sticks that a bowerbird decorates.
2. Blue.
3. A plain gray feather.
4. It was not blue.
5. A cold wind made him notice that the feather was soft and warm.
6. She felt hurt or disappointed, because she flew away without a word.

Square: The Bowerbird and the Plain Gray Feather

Harder · 200 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. A little stage built from sticks that a bowerbird decorates.
2. Blue.
3. A plain gray feather.
4. It was not blue.
5. A bitter wind made him notice that the feather was soft and warm.
6. She probably felt hurt or disappointed, since she left without speaking.