Name: _____ Date: _____

A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

Circle group

Say two neighbors disagree about where a fence should go. Each one is sure the line between the yards is in a different place. Soon both are upset. They stop saying hello. What can they do?

First, they can talk calmly. Many problems end when each person listens. Each one can explain what worries them. If talking does not work, they can check the facts. A town office often keeps records about property. A surveyor can measure the land. The surveyor marks the true line. Very often, the measuring settles it.

Maybe the neighbors still cannot agree. Then they can ask for a mediator. A mediator is a trained person who does not take sides. The mediator gives each neighbor a turn to speak. The mediator listens and asks helpful questions. Then the mediator helps the neighbors make a plan. Both of them can accept it.

The mediator does not say who is right. The neighbors make the choice themselves. Many places offer mediation to help people solve problems. It usually feels calmer than a fight. A good plan lets neighbors live side by side in peace.

Questions

1. What are the two neighbors disagreeing about?

_____

_____

2. What is the first thing the neighbors can try?

_____

_____

3. What can a surveyor do?

_____

_____

4. What is a mediator?

_____

_____

5. Who makes the choice when a mediator helps?

_____

_____

6. Why must a mediator not take sides?

_____

_____

Words to know

disagree: to have a different idea about something
surveyor: a person who measures land to find its exact edges
mediator: someone who helps people settle a disagreement
records: papers or files that keep facts for later
calmly: in a quiet, relaxed way

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: _____

A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

Triangle group

Suppose two neighbors disagree about where a fence should stand. Each one is sure the line between the yards is in a different place. Soon they are both upset, and they have stopped saying hello. What can they do?

First, they can talk calmly. Many problems end when each person listens and explains what worries them. If talking does not work, they can check the facts. A town office often keeps records about property, and a surveyor can measure the land and mark the true line. Very often, the measuring settles the question.

If the neighbors still cannot agree, they can ask for a mediator. A mediator is a trained person who does not take sides. The mediator makes sure each neighbor gets a turn to speak, listens carefully, and asks helpful questions. Then the mediator helps the neighbors come up with a plan that both of them accept.

The mediator does not decide who is right. The neighbors make the choice themselves. Many places offer mediation to help people settle problems, and it usually feels calmer than a fight. A good solution lets neighbors keep living side by side in peace.

Questions

1. What are the two neighbors disagreeing about?

_____

_____

2. What is the first thing the neighbors can try?

_____

_____

3. What can a surveyor do?

_____

_____

4. What is a mediator?

_____

_____

5. Who decides the solution when a mediator helps?

_____

_____

6. Why is it important that a mediator does not take sides?

_____

_____

Words to know

disagree: to have a different idea about something
surveyor: a person who measures land to find its exact edges
mediator: someone who helps people settle a disagreement
records: papers or files that keep facts for later
calmly: in a quiet, relaxed way

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: _____

A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

Square group

Suppose two neighbors disagree about the location where a fence ought to stand. Each is convinced that the boundary between the yards lies in a different spot. Before long, both are upset, and they have even stopped greeting one another. What options do they have?

To begin with, they can talk calmly. Many problems disappear when each person listens carefully and explains what worries them. If conversation fails, they can examine the facts. A town office frequently keeps records about property, and a surveyor can measure the land and mark the true boundary. Quite often, the measurements settle the question completely.

If the neighbors still cannot reach an agreement, they can request a mediator. A mediator is a trained person who refuses to take sides. The mediator ensures that each neighbor has a turn to speak, listens attentively, and asks helpful questions. Afterward, the mediator guides the neighbors toward a plan that both of them are willing to accept.

The mediator never decides who is right; the neighbors make the choice themselves. Many communities offer mediation to help people resolve their problems, and it generally feels calmer than a bitter quarrel. A good solution allows neighbors to continue living side by side in peace.

Questions

1. What are the two neighbors disagreeing about?

_____

_____

2. What is the first thing the neighbors can attempt?

_____

_____

3. What can a surveyor do?

_____

_____

4. What is a mediator?

_____

_____

5. Who makes the choice when a mediator helps?

_____

_____

6. Why is it important for a mediator to refuse to take sides?

_____

_____

Words to know

disagree: to have a different idea about something
surveyor: a person who measures land to find its exact edges
mediator: someone who helps people settle a disagreement
records: papers or files that keep facts for later
calmly: in a quiet, relaxed way

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: A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

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

Circle: A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

Easier · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. Where the fence should go.
2. Talking calmly and listening to each other.
3. Measure the land and mark the true line.
4. A trained person who does not take sides and helps people make a plan.
5. The neighbors themselves.
6. Both neighbors need to feel treated fairly so they can trust the plan.

Triangle: A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

This passage · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. Where the fence should stand.
2. Talking calmly and listening to each other.
3. Measure the land and mark the true line.
4. A trained person who does not take sides and helps people make a plan.
5. The neighbors themselves.
6. Both neighbors need to feel they are treated fairly so they can trust the plan.

Square: A Fence, Two Yards and a Mediator

Harder · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.5

1. The location where the fence ought to stand.
2. Talking calmly and listening carefully to each other.
3. Measure the land and mark the true boundary.
4. A trained person who refuses to take sides and helps people reach a plan.
5. The neighbors themselves.
6. Both neighbors must feel they are treated fairly in order to trust the plan.