Name: _____ Date: _____

Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

Circle group

Mina's family moved to a new city in September. Her old house was far away. Grandpa was far away too.

Every Tuesday at four o'clock, Grandpa left Mina a voicemail. He did not ask her to call back. He just told her small things. One week a squirrel took his last tomato. Another week he found a sock in the freezer.

Mina saved every message. But she never answered. She did not know what to say. Her new school was loud. Nothing seemed worth telling.

One Tuesday, Mina sat on the back steps. She saw a pigeon with one white feather in its tail. It walked along the fence like it owned the street. Mina laughed. Then she picked up the phone.

"Grandpa, it's me," she said. "I met a pigeon today. He walks like the mayor."

Grandpa laughed and coughed. "Tell me everything," he said.

Now Mina keeps a list in her pocket. When she sees something funny, she writes it down. By Tuesday, she has lots to say.

Questions

1. When did Grandpa leave Mina a voicemail?

_____

_____

2. What did the squirrel take from Grandpa?

_____

_____

3. Did Mina answer the messages at first?

_____

_____

4. What did Mina see on the fence?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandpa tell Mina only small, silly things?

_____

_____

6. Why does Mina keep a list in her pocket?

_____

_____

Words to know

voicemail: a recorded message you can listen to later
mayor: the leader of a city or town

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: _____

Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

Triangle group

Mina's family had moved to a new city in September. Her old house was hundreds of miles away, and so was Grandpa.

Every Tuesday at four o'clock, Grandpa left her a voicemail. He never asked her to call back. He only told her small things. One week it was about a squirrel that stole his last tomato. Another week it was about a sock he found in the freezer.

Mina saved every message, but she never answered. She could not think of anything to say. Her new school was loud, and nothing about it seemed worth telling.

One Tuesday, Mina sat on the back steps and saw a pigeon with one white feather in its tail. It strutted along the fence as if it owned the whole street. Mina laughed out loud. Then she picked up the phone.

"Grandpa, it's me," she said. "I met a pigeon today. He walks like the mayor."

Grandpa laughed so hard that he coughed. "Tell me everything," he said.

Now Mina keeps a list in her pocket. When she sees something funny, she writes it down. By Tuesday, she always has plenty to say.

Questions

1. When did Grandpa leave Mina a voicemail?

_____

_____

2. What did the squirrel steal from Grandpa?

_____

_____

3. Did Mina answer the messages at first?

_____

_____

4. What did Mina see on the fence that made her laugh?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Grandpa told Mina only small, silly things?

_____

_____

6. Why does Mina keep a list in her pocket now?

_____

_____

Words to know

voicemail: a recorded message you can listen to later
strutted: walked in a proud, showy way
mayor: the leader of a city or town
hundreds: a very large number, more than ninety-nine

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: _____

Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

Square group

Mina's family had moved to a new city in September, and her old house, along with Grandpa, was now hundreds of miles away.

Every Tuesday at four o'clock, Grandpa left her a voicemail. He never begged her to call him back. Instead, he simply told her small, ordinary things. One week it was about a squirrel that had stolen his very last tomato. Another week it was about a lonely sock he had discovered in the freezer.

Mina saved every single message, yet she never answered one. She could not think of anything to say. Her new school was noisy and crowded, and nothing about it seemed worth reporting.

Then, one Tuesday afternoon, Mina sat on the back steps and noticed a pigeon with a single white feather in its tail. It strutted along the fence as though it owned the whole street. Mina burst out laughing, and before she could change her mind, she picked up the phone.

"Grandpa, it's me," she said. "I met a pigeon today. He walks like the mayor."

Grandpa laughed so hard that he started to cough. "Tell me everything," he said.

These days, Mina carries a list in her pocket. Whenever she spots something funny, she writes it down, so that by Tuesday she always has plenty to say.

Questions

1. At what time each week did Grandpa leave Mina a voicemail?

_____

_____

2. What had the squirrel stolen from Grandpa?

_____

_____

3. Did Mina answer any of the messages at first?

_____

_____

4. What did Mina notice on the fence that made her laugh?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Grandpa told Mina only small, ordinary things instead of asking her to call?

_____

_____

6. Why does Mina carry a list in her pocket these days?

_____

_____

Words to know

voicemail: a recorded message you can listen to later
strutted: walked in a proud, showy way
mayor: the leader of a city or town
hundreds: a very large number, more than ninety-nine

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: Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

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

Circle: Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

Easier · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Every Tuesday at four o'clock.
2. His last tomato.
3. No. She saved them but never answered.
4. A pigeon with one white feather.
5. He wanted to stay close to her and make her smile.
6. She writes down funny things to tell Grandpa on Tuesday.

Triangle: Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

This passage · 190 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. Every Tuesday at four o'clock.
2. His last tomato.
3. No. She saved them but never answered.
4. A pigeon with one white feather in its tail.
5. He wanted to stay close to her and cheer her up without pushing her to call back.
6. She writes down funny things so she has plenty to tell Grandpa on Tuesday.

Square: Grandpa's Tuesday Voicemails

Harder · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Every Tuesday at four o'clock.
2. His very last tomato.
3. No. She saved every one but never answered.
4. A pigeon with a single white feather in its tail.
5. He wanted to stay close to her and cheer her up without pressuring her to call back.
6. She writes down funny things as she spots them, so she always has plenty to tell Grandpa on Tuesday.