Name: _____ Date: _____

The Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

Circle group

A kakapo is a big, round parrot that cannot fly. It walks through the forest on strong legs. It climbs trees with its beak and claws. A kakapo named Huia wanted to see the whole forest from above, like the pigeons.

"Flying is easy," the pigeons said. "Just flap harder."

Huia flapped until her wings ached. She flapped from stumps and logs. Once she flapped from a wobbly branch. Each time she landed in the ferns with leaves in her feathers.

One morning an old kakapo named Tane found her sitting sadly in the ferns. "You are trying to be a pigeon," he said. "Try being a kakapo."

So Huia began to climb. She climbed slowly up a tall rimu tree. It took most of the morning. At the top she opened her wings. She did not fly. She floated gently down, like a green parachute.

On the way, she saw the whole forest below her. The river shone like a silver thread. She had found her own way to the sky.

Questions

1. What can a kakapo not do?

_____

_____

2. What did Huia want most?

_____

_____

3. What happened each time Huia tried to fly?

_____

_____

4. What did Tane tell Huia?

_____

_____

5. How did Huia use her wings at the top of the tree?

_____

_____

6. What does finding her own way to the sky mean?

_____

_____

Words to know

kakapo: a large round parrot of New Zealand that cannot fly
stumps: the short bottoms left when a tree is cut down
wobbly: shaky and not steady
parachute: a large cloth that slows a fall through the air

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 Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

Triangle group

A kakapo is a big, round parrot that cannot fly. Instead it walks through the forest on strong legs and climbs trees with its beak and claws. A kakapo named Huia wished more than anything to see the whole forest from above, the way the pigeons did.

"Flying is easy," the pigeons told her. "You just flap harder."

Huia flapped until her wings ached. She flapped from stumps and from logs and once from a very wobbly branch. Each time she landed in a heap of ferns, with leaves in her feathers.

One morning an old kakapo named Tane found her sitting sadly in the ferns. "You are trying to be a pigeon," he said. "Try being a kakapo."

So Huia began to climb. She climbed slowly, one grip at a time, up the trunk of a tall rimu tree. It took her most of the morning. At the top she opened her wings, not to fly, but to float gently down, like a green parachute.

On the way, she saw the whole forest spread out below her, the river shining like a silver thread. She had found her own way to the sky.

Questions

1. What can a kakapo not do?

_____

_____

2. What did Huia wish more than anything?

_____

_____

3. What happened each time Huia tried to fly?

_____

_____

4. What advice did Tane give Huia?

_____

_____

5. How did Huia use her wings at the top of the tree?

_____

_____

6. What does the story mean by finding her own way to the sky?

_____

_____

Words to know

kakapo: a large round parrot of New Zealand that cannot fly
stumps: the short bottoms left when a tree is cut down
wobbly: shaky and not steady
parachute: a large cloth that slows a fall through the air

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 Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

Square group

A kakapo is a large, round parrot that is unable to fly. Instead it travels through the forest on strong legs and scales trees with its beak and claws. A kakapo named Huia wished more than anything to see the whole forest spread out below her, the way the pigeons did.

"Flying is easy," the pigeons assured her. "You simply have to flap harder."

Huia flapped until her wings ached. She flapped from stumps and from fallen logs, and once she even flapped from a very wobbly branch. Each time she tumbled into a heap of ferns with leaves tangled in her feathers.

One morning an elderly kakapo named Tane discovered her sitting dejectedly among the ferns. "You are trying to be a pigeon," he observed. "Try being a kakapo instead."

So Huia began to climb. She climbed patiently, one firm grip at a time, up the trunk of a towering rimu tree, and the effort took most of the morning. At the very top she spread her wings, not to fly, but to float gently down like a green parachute.

On the way, she saw the entire forest laid out beneath her, with the river shining like a silver thread. She had discovered her own way to the sky.

Questions

1. What is a kakapo unable to do?

_____

_____

2. What did Huia wish for more than anything?

_____

_____

3. What happened every time Huia tried to fly?

_____

_____

4. What advice did the elderly kakapo Tane give Huia?

_____

_____

5. How did Huia use her wings when she reached the top of the tree?

_____

_____

6. What does the story mean by discovering her own way to the sky?

_____

_____

Words to know

kakapo: a large round parrot of New Zealand that cannot fly
stumps: the short bottoms left when a tree is cut down
wobbly: shaky and not steady
parachute: a large cloth that slows a fall through the air

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 Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

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

Circle: The Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

Easier · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Fly.
2. To see the whole forest from above.
3. She landed in the ferns with leaves in her feathers.
4. Stop trying to be a pigeon and try being a kakapo.
5. She opened them to float gently down like a parachute.
6. Huia got a high view in a way that suited a kakapo instead of copying the pigeons.

Triangle: The Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

This passage · 194 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. Fly.
2. To see the whole forest from above.
3. She landed in a heap of ferns with leaves in her feathers.
4. Stop trying to be a pigeon and try being a kakapo.
5. She opened them to float gently down like a parachute.
6. Huia reached a high view in a way that suited a kakapo instead of copying the pigeons.

Square: The Kakapo Who Climbed the Tall Rimu

Harder · 210 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. Fly.
2. To see the whole forest spread out below her.
3. She tumbled into a heap of ferns with leaves tangled in her feathers.
4. To stop trying to be a pigeon and try being a kakapo instead.
5. She spread them so that she floated gently down like a parachute.
6. Huia reached a high view in a manner that suited a kakapo rather than imitating the pigeons.