Name: _____ Date: _____

Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

Circle group

Nell found a little blue bottle in her grandmother's desk. The label said Hill Ink. She dipped a pen and drew a bump on her map of the town. The paper rose up into a tiny green hill.

Nell grinned. She drew two more hills. Then she drew a wiggly river. The river ran off the map and dripped on the floor.

"Too much water," Nell said. She thought hard. A river needs somewhere to go. So she drew a small round lake at the end of the river.

The water poured into the lake and stopped. Nell mopped the floor with a sock. Then she drew a path up the tallest hill. At the top she drew a bench, just big enough for a beetle.

Questions

1. Where did Nell find the bottle of Hill Ink?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Nell drew a bump on her map?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong when Nell drew the river?

_____

_____

4. What did Nell draw to solve the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the water stop after Nell drew the lake?

_____

_____

6. Who was the bench at the top of the hill made for?

_____

_____

Words to know

wiggly: bending and twisting from side to side

label: a small piece of paper that tells what is inside

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: _____

Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

Triangle group

Nell found a little blue bottle at the back of her grandmother's desk. The label said Hill Ink. She dipped a pen and drew a bump on her map of the town. The paper rose up into a tiny hill, soft and green, with grass as thin as eyelashes.

Nell grinned. She drew a second hill, then a third. Soon her desk had a whole range of bumps. But when she drew a wiggly river between them, trouble began. The river ran off the edge of the map and dripped onto the floor.

"Too much water," Nell said. She thought hard. Everything she drew became real, but it still followed the rules of a map. A river needed somewhere to go. So she drew a small round lake at the end of the river, with a ring of reeds around it.

The water poured into the lake and stopped. Nell mopped the floor with an old sock. Then she drew a path up the tallest hill, and a bench at the top, just big enough for a beetle to sit on and enjoy the view.

Questions

1. Where did Nell find the bottle of Hill Ink?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Nell drew a bump on her map?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong when Nell drew the river?

_____

_____

4. What did Nell draw to solve the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the water stop after Nell drew the lake?

_____

_____

6. Who was the bench at the top of the hill made for?

_____

_____

Words to know

range: a row or group of hills or mountains
wiggly: bending and twisting from side to side
reeds: tall thin plants that grow near water
label: a small piece of paper that tells what is inside

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: _____

Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

Square group

Tucked at the back of her grandmother's desk, Nell discovered a little blue bottle whose label read Hill Ink. She dipped a pen into it and drew a single bump on her map of the town. At once the paper swelled into a tiny hill, soft and green, covered in grass as thin as eyelashes.

Nell grinned and drew a second hill, then a third, until her desk held an entire range of bumps. Trouble began, however, when she sketched a wiggly river winding between them. The river ran straight off the edge of the map and dripped onto the floor.

"Too much water," Nell muttered, thinking hard. Everything she drew became real, but it still obeyed the rules of a map, and a river must always have somewhere to go. So she drew a small round lake at the end of the river, surrounded by a ring of reeds.

The water poured into the lake and settled. Nell mopped the floor with an old sock. Then she drew a path spiraling up the tallest hill, and at the top she added a bench, just large enough for a beetle to sit on and admire the view.

Questions

1. Where did Nell find the bottle of Hill Ink?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Nell drew a bump on her map?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong when Nell drew the river?

_____

_____

4. What did Nell draw to solve the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the water stop after Nell drew the lake?

_____

_____

6. Who was the bench at the top of the hill made for?

_____

_____

Words to know

range: a row or group of hills or mountains
wiggly: bending and twisting from side to side
reeds: tall thin plants that grow near water
label: a small piece of paper that tells what is inside

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: Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

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

Circle: Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

Easier · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. In her grandmother's desk.
2. The paper rose up into a tiny green hill.
3. It ran off the map and dripped on the floor.
4. A small round lake at the end of the river.
5. The river had somewhere to go, so the water had a place to rest.
6. A beetle.

Triangle: Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

This passage · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. At the back of her grandmother's desk.
2. The paper rose up into a tiny green hill.
3. It ran off the edge of the map and dripped onto the floor.
4. A small round lake at the end of the river.
5. The river finally had somewhere to go, so the water had a place to rest.
6. A beetle.

Square: Nell's Hill Ink and the Runaway River

Harder · 197 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.8

1. Tucked at the back of her grandmother's desk.
2. The paper swelled into a tiny green hill covered in thin grass.
3. It ran straight off the edge of the map and dripped onto the floor.
4. A small round lake at the end of the river, with reeds around it.
5. A river must have somewhere to go, and the lake gave the water a place to settle.
6. A beetle.