Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

Circle group

A pangolin has tough scales all over its body. When it is scared, it rolls into a tight ball. A young pangolin named Zuri was very good at this. When a twig snapped, she curled up. When a leaf fell, she curled up. She even curled up at her own shadow. She stayed curled until her heart stopped pounding.

Because she was always curled up, Zuri missed a lot. She missed the termite mound her mother showed her how to open. She missed the night the fireflies rose from the grass. Her friends stopped asking her to come along.

One bright night Zuri heard a rustle in the leaves. She began to curl up. Then she stopped and peeked out. A small hedgehog stood there, shaking. He held a lantern berry.

"I am lost," he whispered. "I am scared of the dark."

Zuri's fear got smaller, because he needed her. "Follow me," she said. She walked him to his burrow.

On the way back, she saw the fireflies for the first time. It is wise to be careful, she thought. It is not wise to hide from everything.

Questions

1. What does a pangolin do when it is scared?

_____

_____

2. What made Zuri curl up?

_____

_____

3. What did Zuri miss because she was always curled up?

_____

_____

4. Who did Zuri meet on the bright night?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zuri's fear get smaller?

_____

_____

6. What does Zuri learn at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

pangolin: an animal covered in hard scales that eats ants and termites
termite: a small insect that lives in large groups and eats wood
rustle: a soft sound like leaves moving

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 Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

Triangle group

A pangolin is covered in tough, overlapping scales, and when it is frightened it rolls into a tight ball. A young pangolin named Zuri was very good at it. At the first snap of a twig, at a falling leaf, even at her own shadow, she curled up and stayed that way until her heart stopped pounding.

Because she was always curled, Zuri missed a great many things. She missed the termite mound that her mother showed her how to open. She missed the evening when the fireflies rose from the grass. Her friends stopped asking her to come along.

One night the moon was bright, and Zuri heard a rustle in the leaves. She started to curl up, and then she stopped. She peeked out. A small hedgehog stood there, shaking, holding a lantern berry.

"I am lost," he whispered, "and I am scared of the dark."

Zuri felt her fear shrink, because someone needed her. "Follow me," she said. She walked him all the way to his burrow.

On the way back, she saw the fireflies for the first time. Being careful is wise, she thought, but it is not wise to hide from everything.

Questions

1. What does a pangolin do when it is frightened?

_____

_____

2. What kinds of things made Zuri curl up?

_____

_____

3. What did Zuri miss because she was always curled up?

_____

_____

4. Who did Zuri meet on the bright moon night?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zuri's fear shrink when she met the hedgehog?

_____

_____

6. What does Zuri learn at the end of the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

pangolin: an animal covered in hard scales that eats ants and termites
overlapping: lying partly on top of one another
termite: a small insect that lives in large groups and eats wood
rustle: a soft sound like leaves moving

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 Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

Square group

A pangolin is covered in tough, overlapping scales, and whenever it feels threatened it rolls itself into a tight ball. A young pangolin named Zuri was extraordinarily good at this. At the first snap of a twig, at a drifting leaf, even at her own shadow, she curled up and stayed that way until her heart stopped pounding.

Because she spent so much of her time curled up, Zuri missed a great many wonderful things. She missed the termite mound that her mother had shown her how to open. She missed the evening when the fireflies rose from the long grass. Eventually her friends stopped inviting her to come along.

One night, when the moon was bright, Zuri heard a rustle in the leaves. She began to curl up, and then she hesitated and peeked out. A small hedgehog stood there, trembling, with a lantern berry clutched in his paws.

"I am lost," he whispered, "and I am frightened of the dark."

Zuri felt her own fear shrink, because someone truly needed her. "Follow me," she said, and she led him all the way to his burrow.

On the walk home, she saw the fireflies for the very first time. Being careful is wise, she thought, but it is not wise to hide from everything.

Questions

1. What does a pangolin do when it feels threatened?

_____

_____

2. What kinds of things caused Zuri to curl up?

_____

_____

3. What did Zuri miss because she spent so much time curled up?

_____

_____

4. Who did Zuri meet on the night when the moon was bright?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zuri's own fear shrink when she met the hedgehog?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does Zuri learn by the end of the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

pangolin: an animal covered in hard scales that eats ants and termites
overlapping: lying partly on top of one another
termite: a small insect that lives in large groups and eats wood
rustle: a soft sound like leaves moving

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 Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

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

Circle: The Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

Easier · 188 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. It rolls into a tight ball.
2. A snapping twig, a falling leaf, and her own shadow.
3. The termite mound her mother showed her and the fireflies.
4. A lost, scared hedgehog.
5. She was busy helping the hedgehog, who needed her.
6. It is good to be careful, but you should not hide from everything.

Triangle: The Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

This passage · 197 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. It rolls into a tight ball.
2. A snapping twig, a falling leaf, and even her own shadow.
3. The termite mound her mother showed her and the rising fireflies.
4. A lost, frightened hedgehog.
5. She was busy thinking about helping him, and he needed her.
6. It is good to be careful, but you should not hide from everything.

Square: The Pangolin Who Curled Up Too Soon

Harder · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. It rolls itself into a tight ball.
2. A snapping twig, a drifting leaf, and even her own shadow.
3. The termite mound her mother showed her and the rising fireflies.
4. A lost, trembling hedgehog.
5. She was focused on helping him, because he truly needed her.
6. Being careful is wise, but hiding from everything is not.