Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

Circle group

A small pika named Tamsin lived high on a rocky mountain. All summer she ran to the meadows. She brought back grass and flowers in her mouth. She spread them in the sun to dry. By fall her haypile was as tall as a boot. Pikas stay awake all winter, so she needed every stem.

One cold morning a young pika named Oro came to her door. A hard rain had washed his haypile down the hill. "I was too slow," he said. His ears drooped.

Tamsin looked at her pile. She felt a worry. Would she have enough if she gave some away? Then she thought of the long winter alone under the snow.

"Come and help me turn the hay," she said. "Then take a share."

They worked side by side. All winter the two pikas called to each other through the rocks. Neither one felt alone.

Questions

1. What did Tamsin bring from the meadows?

_____

_____

2. Why did Tamsin need a lot of hay?

_____

_____

3. What happened to Oro's haypile?

_____

_____

4. What did Tamsin do after she thought about winter?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tamsin feel worried?

_____

_____

6. What does this story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pika: a small furry animal that lives high in the mountains
drooped: hung down because of feeling sad or tired

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 Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

Triangle group

High on a rocky mountainside lived a small pika named Tamsin. All summer she ran back and forth between the flower meadows and her home in the rocks. Each trip she carried a mouthful of grass and blossoms, and she spread them in the sun to dry. By autumn her haypile was as tall as a boot. Pikas stay awake all winter, so Tamsin knew she would need every stem.

One cold morning a young pika named Oro crept up to her door. A hard rain had washed his haypile down the slope. "I was too slow to gather enough," he said, and his ears drooped.

Tamsin looked at her neat pile and felt a worry in her chest. If she gave some away, would there be enough? Then she thought about the long winter alone under the snow. A full pile would not feel so full without a friend nearby.

"Come help me turn the hay," she said. "Then take a share for yourself."

They worked side by side until the sun dropped behind the peaks. All winter the two pikas called to each other through the cracks in the rocks, and neither one ever felt alone.

Questions

1. What did Tamsin carry from the meadows to her home?

_____

_____

2. Why did Tamsin need so much hay?

_____

_____

3. What happened to Oro's haypile?

_____

_____

4. What did Tamsin do after she thought about the long winter?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tamsin feel a worry in her chest?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does this story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

pika: a small furry animal that lives high in the mountains
blossoms: flowers on a plant
drooped: hung down because of feeling sad or tired
slope: the slanted side of a hill or mountain

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 Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

Square group

High on a steep and rocky mountainside lived a small pika named Tamsin. Throughout the whole summer she scurried back and forth between the flower meadows and her home among the boulders. On every trip she carried a mouthful of grass and blossoms, which she spread out in the sun to dry. By the time autumn arrived, her haypile was as tall as a boot. Pikas stay awake through the entire winter, so Tamsin understood that she would need every last stem.

One bitterly cold morning, a young pika named Oro crept up to her doorway. A heavy rain had washed his haypile all the way down the slope. "I was too slow to gather enough," he said, and his ears drooped sadly.

Tamsin studied her neat pile and felt a worry tighten in her chest. If she gave some away, would there still be enough for her? Then she pictured the long, silent winter alone beneath the snow, and she realized that even a full pile would feel empty without a friend nearby.

"Come and help me turn the hay," she said. "Afterward you may take a share for yourself."

They worked side by side until the sun sank behind the peaks. Through the whole winter the two pikas called to one another through the cracks in the rocks, and neither one ever felt alone.

Questions

1. What did Tamsin carry from the flower meadows to her home?

_____

_____

2. Why did Tamsin understand that she would need so much hay?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the haypile that belonged to Oro?

_____

_____

4. What did Tamsin do after she pictured the long winter?

_____

_____

5. Why did a worry tighten in Tamsin's chest?

_____

_____

6. What lesson can a reader take from this story?

_____

_____

Words to know

pika: a small furry animal that lives high in the mountains
blossoms: flowers on a plant
drooped: hung down because of feeling sad or tired
slope: the slanted side of a hill or mountain

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 Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

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

Circle: The Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

Easier · 149 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. Grass and flowers in her mouth.
2. Pikas stay awake all winter and need food.
3. A hard rain washed it down the hill.
4. She asked Oro to help and gave him a share of the hay.
5. She was afraid she would not have enough hay if she gave some away.
6. Sharing with a friend can matter more than keeping everything.

Triangle: The Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

This passage · 198 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. Mouthfuls of grass and blossoms.
2. Pikas stay awake all winter and need food.
3. A hard rain washed it down the slope.
4. She asked Oro to help turn the hay and gave him a share.
5. She was afraid that giving some hay away would leave her without enough.
6. Sharing with a friend can matter more than keeping everything for yourself.

Square: The Pika Who Shared Her Haypile

Harder · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. Mouthfuls of grass and blossoms.
2. Pikas stay awake through the whole winter and need food.
3. A heavy rain washed it all the way down the slope.
4. She asked Oro to help turn the hay and offered him a share.
5. She feared that giving some hay away might leave her without enough.
6. A friend's company and sharing can be worth more than keeping everything for yourself.