Name: _____ Date: _____

Room 12 and the Snail Derby

Circle group

Room 12 had one class pet. It was a garden snail named Biscuit. On the last Friday of May, Ms. Alvarez had a surprise. "We will have a Snail Derby," she said.

Each team got a paper track. It had a start line and a finish line. The rules were easy. You could not touch the snail or blow on it. You could only choose what to put at the finish line.

Tanvir's team put lettuce at the end. Biscuit just sat in his shell. Another team used a drop of water. Biscuit crept sideways. Everyone groaned.

Lila saw that Biscuit moved a bit when the room was quiet. "Maybe he does not like noise," she whispered. Her team sat very still.

She also saw that the paper was dry and rough. Snails like damp things. Ms. Alvarez said yes, and Lila wet the track with a sponge.

Biscuit stretched out his head. His body slid forward. The class held its breath for almost ten minutes.

When Biscuit reached the lettuce, the class clapped softly. They did not want to scare him. Lila's team won. Their prize was extra time to feed Biscuit.

Questions

1. What was the class pet?

_____

_____

2. What could teams not do?

_____

_____

3. What did Tanvir's team put at the finish line?

_____

_____

4. When did Biscuit move a little, Lila saw?

_____

_____

5. Why did Lila wet the track?

_____

_____

6. Why did the class clap softly?

_____

_____

7. What did Lila's team do differently?

_____

_____

Words to know

derby: a race, often held just for fun

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: _____

Room 12 and the Snail Derby

Triangle group

Room 12 had one class pet, a garden snail named Biscuit. On the last Friday of May, Ms. Alvarez announced a surprise. "We will hold a Snail Derby," she said.

Each team got a paper track with a start line and a finish line, one hand's length apart. The rules were simple. You could not touch the snail's body or blow on it. You could only decide what to put at the finish line.

Tanvir's team put a piece of lettuce at the end. Biscuit just sat in his shell. Another team put a drop of water. Biscuit crept sideways. Everyone groaned.

Lila noticed that Biscuit moved a little when the room got quiet. "Maybe he does not like all our noise," she whispered. She asked her team to sit very still.

She also noticed that the paper track was dry and rough. Snails like damp surfaces. So with Ms. Alvarez's permission, Lila dampened the track with a wet sponge.

Biscuit stretched out his head. Slowly, his body slid forward. The whole class held its breath for almost ten minutes.

When Biscuit touched the lettuce, Room 12 clapped softly, because they did not want to scare him. Lila's team won, and the prize was extra time to feed their small champion.

Questions

1. What was the class pet named?

_____

_____

2. What could teams not do during the Snail Derby?

_____

_____

3. What did Tanvir's team put at the finish line?

_____

_____

4. What did Lila notice about when Biscuit moved?

_____

_____

5. Why did Lila wet the paper track?

_____

_____

6. Why did the class clap softly at the end?

_____

_____

7. What did Lila's team do differently from the other teams?

_____

_____

Words to know

derby: a race, often held just for fun
announced: told everyone something important
dampened: made a little bit wet
champion: the winner

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: _____

Room 12 and the Snail Derby

Square group

Room 12 had exactly one class pet, a garden snail named Biscuit. On the last Friday of May, Ms. Alvarez unveiled a surprise. "Today," she announced, "we are going to hold a Snail Derby."

Every team received a paper track with a start line and a finish line drawn a hand's length apart. The rules were simple. Students were forbidden to touch the snail's body or to blow on it, and they could only decide what to place at the finish line.

Tanvir's team chose a leaf of lettuce, but Biscuit simply sat motionless inside his shell. Another team tried a drop of water, and Biscuit crept sideways instead of forward. The whole class groaned.

Lila observed that Biscuit moved slightly whenever the room fell quiet. "Perhaps he dislikes all our noise," she whispered, and she asked her teammates to sit perfectly still.

She also noticed that the paper track was dry and rough, and snails prefer damp surfaces. With Ms. Alvarez's permission, Lila moistened the track with a wet sponge.

Biscuit stretched out his head, and his body slowly slid forward. The entire class held its breath for nearly ten minutes.

When Biscuit finally touched the lettuce, Room 12 applauded very softly, since nobody wished to frighten him. Lila's team had won, and their prize was extra time feeding their tiny champion.

Questions

1. What was the class pet in Room 12?

_____

_____

2. What were students forbidden to do during the Snail Derby?

_____

_____

3. What did Tanvir's team place at the finish line?

_____

_____

4. What did Lila observe about when Biscuit moved?

_____

_____

5. Why did Lila moisten the paper track?

_____

_____

6. Why did the class applaud so softly at the end?

_____

_____

7. How was Lila's team different from the other teams?

_____

_____

Words to know

derby: a race, often held just for fun
announced: told everyone something important
champion: the winner

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: Room 12 and the Snail Derby

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

Circle: Room 12 and the Snail Derby

Easier · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. A garden snail named Biscuit.
2. Touch the snail or blow on it.
3. Lettuce.
4. When the room was quiet.
5. Snails like damp surfaces and the paper was dry.
6. They did not want to scare the snail.
7. They watched the snail and changed the room and track to suit it.

Triangle: Room 12 and the Snail Derby

This passage · 209 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. Biscuit, a garden snail.
2. Touch the snail's body or blow on it.
3. A piece of lettuce.
4. He moved a little when the room got quiet.
5. Snails like damp surfaces and the paper was dry and rough.
6. They did not want to scare the snail.
7. They watched how the snail behaved and changed the room and the track to suit it.

Square: Room 12 and the Snail Derby

Harder · 221 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. A garden snail named Biscuit.
2. Touch the snail's body or blow on it.
3. A leaf of lettuce.
4. He moved slightly whenever the room fell quiet.
5. Snails prefer damp surfaces and the paper was dry and rough.
6. Nobody wished to frighten the snail.
7. They observed how the snail behaved and adjusted the room and the track to suit it.