Name: _____ Date: _____

Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

Circle group

Mateo came to his grandfather's house. A yellow note was stuck to the gate. It said, "I am green in spring and gold in fall. I have no feet, but I walk across the lawn."

Mateo read it three times. Then he smiled. A leaf cannot walk, but the wind can push it. The next note was on the big maple tree.

That note was harder. "Count the steps from the tree to the bird bath. Take away your age." Mateo was nine. He counted fourteen steps. Fourteen take away nine is five. He took five more steps toward the shed.

He found a clay pot with a tag. Inside were seeds and a last note. "Every good puzzle ends with something that grows. Plant these for me."

Grandpa came out from behind the shed. "I made this trail last night," he said. "I wanted you to know my garden before we plant it."

Mateo hugged him. That day, the first bean seed went into the soil.

Questions

1. Where was the first note?

_____

_____

2. Where was the second note?

_____

_____

3. How old was Mateo?

_____

_____

4. What was in the clay pot?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandpa make the trail?

_____

_____

6. What was the answer to the first riddle?

_____

_____

Words to know

maple: a kind of tree with wide, pointed leaves
trail: a path or line of clues to follow

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: _____

Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

Triangle group

When Mateo arrived at his grandfather's house, a yellow sticky note was waiting on the gate. It said, "I am green in spring, gold in fall, and I have no feet, but I walk across the lawn."

Mateo read it three times. Then he grinned. A leaf could not walk, but wind could push it across the grass. He found the next note stuck to the biggest maple tree.

That note was harder. "Count the steps from the tree to the bird bath, then take away the number of your age." Mateo was nine. He counted fourteen steps, and fourteen minus nine is five. He walked five more steps toward the shed.

There he found a small clay pot with a tag tied to it. Inside the pot was a packet of seeds and a final note. "Every good puzzle ends with something that grows. Plant these, and watch them for me."

Grandpa stepped out from behind the shed, smiling. "I made that trail last night," he said. "I wanted you to know my garden before we plant it together."

Mateo hugged him. The first bean seed went into the soil that afternoon.

Questions

1. Where was the first sticky note?

_____

_____

2. What was stuck to the biggest maple tree?

_____

_____

3. How old was Mateo?

_____

_____

4. What was inside the clay pot?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandpa make the trail?

_____

_____

6. What did the first riddle describe?

_____

_____

Words to know

maple: a kind of tree with wide, pointed leaves
packet: a small paper envelope that holds something
trail: a path or line of clues to follow

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: _____

Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

Square group

When Mateo arrived at his grandfather's house, a bright yellow sticky note was waiting for him on the gate. It read, "I am green in spring, gold in autumn, and although I have no feet, I walk across the lawn."

Mateo studied it three times before he grinned. A leaf could not truly walk, but the wind could certainly push one across the grass. He found the second note attached to the largest maple tree in the yard.

That clue was considerably trickier. "Count the steps from the tree to the bird bath, then subtract the number of years you have lived." Mateo was nine. He counted fourteen steps, and fourteen minus nine is five, so he walked five more steps in the direction of the shed.

There he discovered a small clay pot with a tag tied around its rim. Inside were a packet of seeds and a final note. "Every worthwhile puzzle ends with something that grows. Plant these, and watch over them for me."

Grandpa stepped out from behind the shed, smiling broadly. "I built that trail last night," he said. "I wanted you to get to know my garden before we plant it together."

Mateo hugged him tightly, and by late afternoon, the first bean seed was tucked into the soil.

Questions

1. Where was the first sticky note waiting for Mateo?

_____

_____

2. Where did Mateo find the second note?

_____

_____

3. How old was Mateo?

_____

_____

4. What did the clay pot hold?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandpa build the trail?

_____

_____

6. What did the first riddle describe?

_____

_____

Words to know

maple: a kind of tree with wide, pointed leaves
packet: a small paper envelope that holds something
trail: a path or line of clues to follow

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: Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

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

Circle: Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

Easier · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. On the gate.
2. On the big maple tree.
3. Nine.
4. Seeds and a last note.
5. He wanted Mateo to know the garden before they planted it.
6. A leaf that the wind pushes.

Triangle: Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

This passage · 193 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. On the gate.
2. The second note.
3. He was nine.
4. A packet of seeds and a final note.
5. He wanted Mateo to get to know the garden before they planted it together.
6. A leaf that the wind pushes across the lawn.

Square: Sticky Notes Along Grandpa's Garden Path

Harder · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. On the gate.
2. Attached to the largest maple tree.
3. He was nine years old.
4. A packet of seeds and a final note.
5. He wanted Mateo to know the garden before they planted it together.
6. A leaf pushed across the lawn by the wind.