Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ferry Bench Riddle

Circle group

Each Saturday, Hana and her twin brother Kenji rode the island ferry. They went to see their cousins. They sat on the same wooden bench at the back of the boat. One day, Kenji felt scratches on the armrest.

"Hana, look. Someone wrote a riddle."

The small letters were faded by salt and sun. They said, "I have a face but no eyes. I have hands but no arms. Find me where the seagulls dock, and you will learn what time it is."

Hana was good at puzzles. "A clock has a face and hands," she said. "But where do seagulls dock?"

Kenji pointed at the harbor. A tall post stood at the end of the pier. A white seagull sat on top. Under the bird was a round brass clock.

"That is it!" Hana said.

When the ferry landed, they ran to the clock. A small card was taped under it. "Well done, riddle-solvers. The ferry captain thanks you." The twins laughed and took the card home.

Questions

1. Who rode the ferry each Saturday?

_____

_____

2. Where was the riddle?

_____

_____

3. What has a face but no eyes?

_____

_____

4. What was taped under the clock?

_____

_____

5. Why were the letters hard to read?

_____

_____

6. Who most likely left the riddle and card?

_____

_____

Words to know

ferry: a boat that carries people across water
armrest: the part of a seat where you rest your arm
harbor: a sheltered place where boats stay
pier: a long platform that reaches out over water

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 Ferry Bench Riddle

Triangle group

Every Saturday, Hana and her twin brother Kenji rode the island ferry to visit their cousins. They always sat on the same wooden bench at the back of the boat. One morning, Kenji ran his finger along the armrest and felt scratches.

"Hana, look. Somebody wrote a riddle here."

Small letters, faded by salt and sunshine, spelled out: "I have a face but no eyes, hands but no arms. Find me where the seagulls dock, and you will learn what time it is."

They stared at the words. Hana was good at puzzles. "A clock has a face and hands," she said slowly. "But where do seagulls dock?"

Kenji pointed through the window at the harbor. A tall post stood at the end of the pier, and on top of it sat a white seagull, preening. Below the bird, mounted on the post, was a round brass clock.

"That is the answer!" Hana said. "The clock on the seagull post."

When the ferry landed, they hurried to the clock. Taped underneath was a small card: "Well done, riddle-solvers. The ferry captain thanks you." The twins laughed, and carried the card home to show their cousins.

Questions

1. Who rode the ferry every Saturday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Kenji find the riddle?

_____

_____

3. What has a face but no eyes, and hands but no arms?

_____

_____

4. What was taped under the clock?

_____

_____

5. Why were the letters hard to read?

_____

_____

6. Who most likely left the riddle and the card?

_____

_____

Words to know

ferry: a boat that carries people across water
armrest: the part of a seat where you rest your arm
harbor: a sheltered place where boats stay
preening: smoothing and cleaning its feathers
pier: a long platform that reaches out over water

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 Ferry Bench Riddle

Square group

Every Saturday, Hana and her twin brother Kenji rode the island ferry to visit their cousins. They always settled onto the same wooden bench at the back of the boat. One morning, Kenji ran his finger along the armrest and discovered a series of scratches.

"Hana, look at this. Somebody carved a riddle here."

The small letters, faded by salt and sunshine, spelled out: "I have a face but no eyes, and hands but no arms. Find me where the seagulls dock, and you will discover what time it is."

They stared at the words for a long while. Hana, who was exceptionally good at puzzles, said slowly, "A clock has a face and hands. But where do seagulls dock?"

Kenji pointed through the window toward the harbor. A tall post stood at the far end of the pier, and perched on top of it was a white seagull, preening its feathers. Below the bird, mounted on the post, was a round brass clock.

"That is the answer!" Hana exclaimed.

As soon as the ferry landed, they hurried to the clock. Taped underneath was a small card: "Well done, riddle-solvers. The ferry captain thanks you." The twins laughed and carried the card home to show their cousins.

Questions

1. Who rode the island ferry every Saturday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Kenji discover the riddle?

_____

_____

3. What has a face but no eyes, and hands but no arms?

_____

_____

4. What was taped beneath the clock?

_____

_____

5. Why were the letters difficult to read?

_____

_____

6. Who most likely left the riddle and the card?

_____

_____

Words to know

ferry: a boat that carries people across water
armrest: the part of a seat where you rest your arm
harbor: a sheltered place where boats stay
preening: smoothing and cleaning its feathers
pier: a long platform that reaches out over water

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 Ferry Bench Riddle

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

Circle: The Ferry Bench Riddle

Easier · 169 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Hana and her twin brother Kenji.
2. Scratched on the armrest of the bench.
3. A clock.
4. A small card for the riddle-solvers.
5. Salt and sun had faded them.
6. The ferry captain.

Triangle: The Ferry Bench Riddle

This passage · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Hana and her twin brother Kenji.
2. Scratched on the armrest of the wooden bench.
3. A clock.
4. A small card thanking the riddle-solvers.
5. Salt and sunshine had faded them over time.
6. The ferry captain.

Square: The Ferry Bench Riddle

Harder · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. Hana and her twin brother Kenji.
2. Scratched along the armrest of the wooden bench.
3. A clock.
4. A small card thanking the riddle-solvers.
5. Salt and sunshine had faded them over time.
6. The ferry captain.