Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

Circle group

Ravi studied his spelling list all week. On Friday he put it in his coat pocket. He walked by the pen where his goat, Biscuit, lived. Biscuit stuck her neck through the fence. She nibbled the pocket. The list was gone!

"Biscuit!" Ravi groaned. "That was my whole list!"

Biscuit chewed. She looked very pleased.

At school, Ravi felt sick. Then Ms. Okafor began the test. "Your first word is *because*," she said.

Ravi smiled. All week he had said the words out loud to Biscuit. He had made up silly tricks to remember them. For *necessary*, he thought of a shirt with one collar and two sleeves. That is one c and two s's.

Ravi spelled every word right but one. Even that one he almost had.

After school, he told Ms. Okafor about Biscuit. She laughed and laughed. "Your goat helped you," she said. "You learned the words by teaching them to her."

That night, Ravi gave Biscuit an extra carrot. He kept the next list in a pocket with a button.

Questions

1. What did Biscuit do to the spelling list?

_____

_____

2. Who gave the test?

_____

_____

3. How did Ravi practice his words?

_____

_____

4. What trick did Ravi use for the word necessary?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ms. Okafor say the goat helped Ravi?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ravi use a pocket with a button next time?

_____

_____

Words to know

nibbled: took small bites of something
groaned: made a low sound because of worry or trouble
necessary: something you must have or must do
collar: the part of a shirt that goes around the neck

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 Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

Triangle group

Ravi had studied his spelling list all week. On Friday morning he put it in his coat pocket and walked past the pen where his goat, Biscuit, lived. Biscuit stretched her neck through the fence and nibbled the pocket. Before Ravi could say "stop," the list was gone.

"Biscuit!" he groaned. "That was my whole list!"

Biscuit chewed slowly, looking very pleased with herself.

At school, Ravi felt his stomach sink. Then Ms. Okafor began the test. "Your first word is *because*," she said.

Ravi smiled. He could still hear himself saying the words out loud to Biscuit all week. He had made up silly tricks to remember them. Big elephants can always understand small elephants spelled *because*. For *necessary*, he thought of a shirt with one collar and two sleeves: one c and two s's.

He spelled every word right except one, and even that one he almost had.

After school, Ravi told Ms. Okafor what had happened. She laughed until she had to wipe her eyes. "Then your goat helped you more than you know," she said. "You learned the words by teaching them to her."

That evening, Ravi gave Biscuit an extra carrot. He kept the next list in a pocket with a button.

Questions

1. What did Biscuit do to Ravi's spelling list?

_____

_____

2. Who gave the spelling test?

_____

_____

3. How did Ravi practice his words during the week?

_____

_____

4. What trick did Ravi use for the word necessary?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ms. Okafor say the goat helped Ravi?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ravi keep the next list in a pocket with a button?

_____

_____

Words to know

nibbled: took small bites of something
groaned: made a low sound because of worry or trouble
necessary: something you must have or must do
collar: the part of a shirt that goes around the neck

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 Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

Square group

Ravi had been studying his spelling list diligently all week. On Friday morning he tucked it into his coat pocket and strolled past the pen where his goat, Biscuit, lived. Biscuit stretched her neck through the fence and nibbled at the pocket. Before Ravi could say "stop," the entire list had vanished.

"Biscuit!" he groaned. "That was every single word I needed!"

Biscuit chewed slowly, looking remarkably pleased with herself.

At school, Ravi's stomach sank like a stone. Then Ms. Okafor began the test. "Your first word is *because*," she announced.

Ravi smiled with relief. All week long he had recited the words aloud to Biscuit, inventing silly tricks to help himself remember them. Big elephants can always understand small elephants spelled *because*. For *necessary*, he pictured a shirt with one collar and two sleeves: one c and two s's.

He spelled every word correctly except for one, and even that one he nearly had.

After school, Ravi confessed to Ms. Okafor what had happened. She laughed until she had to wipe her eyes. "Then your goat helped you more than you realize," she said. "You mastered those words by teaching them to her."

That evening, Ravi rewarded Biscuit with an extra carrot. From then on, he kept every new list in a pocket that fastened with a button.

Questions

1. What did Biscuit do to Ravi's spelling list?

_____

_____

2. Who was the teacher giving the spelling test?

_____

_____

3. How had Ravi practiced his words during the week?

_____

_____

4. What memory trick did Ravi use for the word necessary?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ms. Okafor say the goat had helped Ravi?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ravi begin keeping lists in a pocket with a button?

_____

_____

Words to know

nibbled: took small bites of something
groaned: made a low sound because of worry or trouble
necessary: something you must have or must do
collar: the part of a shirt that goes around the neck

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 Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

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

Circle: The Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

Easier · 174 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. She nibbled it out of the pocket and ate it.
2. Ms. Okafor.
3. He said them out loud to Biscuit.
4. He thought of a shirt with one collar and two sleeves.
5. Teaching the words to Biscuit helped him learn them.
6. A button would keep Biscuit from eating the list.

Triangle: The Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

This passage · 207 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. She nibbled it out of his pocket and ate it.
2. Ms. Okafor.
3. He said them out loud to Biscuit.
4. He thought of a shirt with one collar and two sleeves.
5. Teaching the words to Biscuit helped him learn them.
6. A button would keep Biscuit from eating it again.

Square: The Goat Who Ate the Spelling List

Harder · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. She nibbled it out of his coat pocket and ate it.
2. Ms. Okafor.
3. He recited them aloud to Biscuit.
4. He pictured a shirt with one collar and two sleeves.
5. He learned the words well by teaching them to Biscuit.
6. A fastened pocket would stop Biscuit from eating another list.