Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Gutter Scoop Contest

Circle group

Each October, the Hartwell family cleaned the leaves out of the gutter. Wills and his twin sister Posy dreaded it. The leaves were wet and slimy. They smelled like old pond water.

This year, Dad stood on the ground and held the ladder. Wills climbed up with a trowel and a bucket. He scooped a clump of leaves and dropped it. Splat! Posy groaned.

"This takes forever," Wills said. "It is boring."

Posy looked at the soggy pile. Then she grinned. "What if we make it a contest?"

They made up rules. Each scoop was one point. A big scoop was three points. A scoop that landed in the bucket got a bonus point. Dad kept score on an envelope.

The chore went much faster. Wills scooped like a machine. Posy kept the bucket under the spout. Dad laughed so hard he lost count twice.

By the end of the day, the gutter was clean. Water ran through it again. The score was forty-one to thirty-nine.

"Same time next October?" Dad asked. Both twins said yes. Each one said they would win.

## Questions

**1. What chore did the Hartwells do each October?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did the twins dread it?**

_____

_____

**3. What was Dad's job?**

_____

_____

**4. Whose idea was the contest?**

_____

_____

**5. How could a scoop get a bonus point?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did the chore go faster?**

_____

_____

**7. What does the ending tell you about the twins?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

gutter: a channel along a roof that carries rainwater away
trowel: a small hand shovel
dreaded: felt worried or unhappy about something coming
soggy: soaked with 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 Gutter Scoop Contest

Triangle group

Every October, the Hartwell family cleaned the leaves out of their back-porch gutter. Wills and his twin sister Posy dreaded it. The leaves were wet and slimy, and they smelled like old pond water.

This year, Dad stood on the ground and held the ladder steady. Wills climbed up first with a garden trowel and a bucket. He scooped out one clump of leaves and dropped it with a splat. Posy, at the bottom, groaned.

"This takes forever," Wills said. "And it is boring."

Posy folded her arms and looked at the pile of soggy leaves. Then she grinned. "What if we make it a contest?"

They invented rules on the spot. Each scoop counted as a point. An extra-big scoop was worth three points. If a scoop landed in the bucket, it got a bonus point. Dad would keep score on the back of an envelope.

Suddenly the chore went much faster. Wills scooped like a machine, and Posy kept the bucket under the spout. Dad laughed so hard that he lost count twice.

By the end of the afternoon, the gutter was clean, and water ran freely through it again. The final score was forty-one to thirty-nine.

"Same time next October?" Dad asked. Both twins said yes, and each one swore they would win.

## Questions

**1. What chore did the Hartwell family do every October?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did Wills and Posy dread the chore?**

_____

_____

**3. What was Dad's job while Wills climbed the ladder?**

_____

_____

**4. Whose idea was it to turn the chore into a contest?**

_____

_____

**5. How could a scoop earn a bonus point?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did the chore go faster once it became a contest?**

_____

_____

**7. What does the ending tell you about how the twins felt about the chore?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

gutter: a channel along a roof that carries rainwater away
trowel: a small hand shovel
dreaded: felt worried or unhappy about something coming
soggy: soaked with 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 Gutter Scoop Contest

Square group

Every October, the Hartwell family cleared the leaves out of the gutter above their back porch. Wills and his twin sister Posy dreaded the job. The leaves were wet and slimy, and they smelled like stagnant pond water.

This year, Dad stood on the ground and held the ladder steady while Wills climbed up carrying a garden trowel and a bucket. He scooped out one clump of leaves and let it fall with a loud splat. Posy, standing at the bottom, groaned.

"This takes forever," Wills complained. "And it is completely boring."

Posy folded her arms and studied the pile of soggy leaves. Then a grin spread across her face. "What if we turn it into a contest?"

They invented the rules on the spot. Each scoop earned a point, and an especially large scoop was worth three. If a scoop landed inside the bucket, it earned a bonus point. Dad would keep score on the back of an envelope.

Suddenly the chore sped along. Wills scooped like a machine while Posy kept the bucket positioned beneath the spout, and Dad laughed so hard that he lost count twice.

By the end of the afternoon, the gutter was spotless, and rainwater could run freely through it once more. The final score was forty-one to thirty-nine.

"Same time next October?" Dad asked. Both twins agreed at once, and each of them vowed to win.

## Questions

**1. What chore did the Hartwell family perform every October?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did Wills and Posy dread the chore?**

_____

_____

**3. What was Dad's job while Wills climbed the ladder?**

_____

_____

**4. Who suggested turning the chore into a contest?**

_____

_____

**5. How could a scoop earn a bonus point?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did the chore move along so quickly once it became a contest?**

_____

_____

**7. What does the ending reveal about how the twins felt about the chore?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

gutter: a channel along a roof that carries rainwater away
trowel: a small hand shovel
dreaded: felt worried or unhappy about something coming
soggy: soaked with 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 Gutter Scoop Contest

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

### Circle: The Gutter Scoop Contest

Easier · 184 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. Cleaned the leaves out of the gutter.
2. The leaves were wet and slimy and smelled bad.
3. Holding the ladder.
4. Posy's.
5. By landing in the bucket.
6. The twins were having fun and wanted to win.
7. They no longer dreaded the chore and wanted to do it again.

### Triangle: The Gutter Scoop Contest

This passage · 220 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. Cleaned the leaves out of the gutter.
2. The leaves were wet and slimy and smelled bad.
3. He held the ladder steady.
4. Posy's.
5. If it landed in the bucket.
6. The twins were having fun and wanted to win, so they worked harder.
7. They no longer dreaded it and looked forward to doing it again.

### Square: The Gutter Scoop Contest

Harder · 235 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. Clearing the leaves out of the gutter.
2. The leaves were wet and slimy and smelled like stagnant pond water.
3. Holding the ladder steady.
4. Posy.
5. By landing inside the bucket.
6. The twins were enjoying themselves and wanted to win, so they worked harder.
7. They no longer dreaded it and looked forward to doing it again.