Name: _____ Date: _____

The Left Mitten Mystery

Circle group

The lost-and-found box at Pine Hill School held forty-one things. All of them had owners. All except one purple mitten with a white star.

Each day for a week, Nia held up the mitten. "Is this yours?" she asked. Nobody said yes.

Nia was the box monitor that month. She did not like a puzzle with no answer. So she looked at the mitten like a detective. It was small, so the owner was young. It was damp by the thumb, so someone had played in snow. The star was sewn with uneven thread. It was made by hand.

"A grown-up made this," Nia thought. "Maybe a grandparent."

On Friday, she went to the kindergarten room. She asked the teacher about a child whose grandmother knits. "Tobias," said the teacher. "His grandmother knitted him mittens."

Tobias was building a block tower. He saw the mitten and his eyes went wide. He took the twin mitten out of his coat pocket. They matched.

Nia gave him the mitten. She put a big green check mark on her list.

Questions

1. What was special about the purple mitten?

_____

_____

2. What was Nia's job that month?

_____

_____

3. Why did Nia think the owner was young?

_____

_____

4. What clue showed someone played in snow?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nia think a grandparent made it?

_____

_____

6. Where did Nia go to find the owner?

_____

_____

7. How did Tobias show the mitten was his?

_____

_____

Words to know

monitor: a student who has a special job to look after something
detective: a person who looks for clues to solve a mystery
uneven: not smooth or matching all the way along

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 Left Mitten Mystery

Triangle group

The lost-and-found box at Pine Hill School held forty-one things, and all of them had owners. All except one purple mitten with a white star on it.

Every day for a week, Nia held the mitten up in the hallway. "Does this belong to anyone?" she asked. Nobody said yes.

Nia was the box monitor that month, and she did not like leaving a puzzle unsolved. So she studied the mitten like a detective. It was small, so the owner was probably a younger child. It was damp near the thumb, so someone had been playing in the snow. And the star was stitched with uneven thread, as if someone had made it by hand.

"A grown-up made this," Nia said to herself. "Maybe a grandparent."

On Friday, she visited the kindergarten room and asked the teacher about a child with a grandmother who knits. The teacher thought for a moment. "Little Tobias," she said. "His grandmother knitted him mittens for his birthday."

Tobias was building a block tower in the corner. When he saw the mitten, his eyes went wide. He pulled its twin out of his coat pocket and held them side by side.

They matched perfectly. Nia put the mitten in his hand, and she crossed it off the list with a big green check mark.

Questions

1. What was special about the purple mitten in the box?

_____

_____

2. What job did Nia have that month?

_____

_____

3. Why did Nia think the owner was a younger child?

_____

_____

4. What clue showed that someone had been playing in snow?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nia think a grandparent might have made the mitten?

_____

_____

6. Where did Nia go to find the owner?

_____

_____

7. How did Tobias prove the mitten was his?

_____

_____

Words to know

monitor: a student who has a special job to look after something
detective: a person who looks for clues to solve a mystery
stitched: sewn with a needle and thread
uneven: not smooth or matching all the way along

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 Left Mitten Mystery

Square group

The lost-and-found box at Pine Hill School contained forty-one items, and every one of them had been traced back to its owner. Every one, that is, except a single purple mitten decorated with a white star.

Each day for a week, Nia held the mitten up in the crowded hallway. "Does this belong to anyone?" she called out. Nobody ever claimed it.

Nia was the box monitor that month, and she disliked leaving a puzzle unsolved. So she examined the mitten the way a detective would examine evidence. It was small, so the owner was probably a younger child. It was still damp near the thumb, which meant that someone had been playing in the snow. And the star was stitched with uneven thread, as though somebody had made it by hand.

"A grown-up made this," Nia reasoned. "Possibly a grandparent."

On Friday, she visited the kindergarten classroom and asked the teacher whether any child had a grandmother who knitted. The teacher thought for a moment. "That would be little Tobias," she replied. "His grandmother knitted him a pair of mittens for his birthday."

Tobias was constructing a tower of blocks in the corner. When he spotted the mitten, his eyes widened. He pulled its twin out of his coat pocket and held the two side by side.

They matched perfectly. Nia placed the mitten into his hand and crossed it off her list with a bold green check mark.

Questions

1. What made the purple mitten different from everything else in the box?

_____

_____

2. What responsibility did Nia have that month?

_____

_____

3. Why did Nia believe the owner was probably a younger child?

_____

_____

4. Which clue showed that someone had been playing in the snow?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nia suspect that a grandparent had made the mitten?

_____

_____

6. Where did Nia go to search for the owner?

_____

_____

7. How did Tobias prove that the mitten belonged to him?

_____

_____

Words to know

monitor: a student who has a special job to look after something
detective: a person who looks for clues to solve a mystery
stitched: sewn with a needle and thread
uneven: not smooth or matching all the way along

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 Left Mitten Mystery

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

Circle: The Left Mitten Mystery

Easier · 181 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. Nobody had claimed it.
2. She was the box monitor.
3. The mitten was small.
4. The mitten was damp by the thumb.
5. The star was sewn by hand with uneven thread.
6. The kindergarten room.
7. He pulled the matching mitten from his pocket.

Triangle: The Left Mitten Mystery

This passage · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. It was the only item that nobody had claimed.
2. She was the box monitor for the lost-and-found.
3. The mitten was small.
4. The mitten was damp near the thumb.
5. The star was stitched by hand with uneven thread.
6. The kindergarten room.
7. He took the matching mitten out of his coat pocket.

Square: The Left Mitten Mystery

Harder · 244 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. It was the only item that nobody had claimed.
2. She was the box monitor for the lost-and-found.
3. The mitten was small.
4. The mitten was still damp near the thumb.
5. The star was stitched by hand with uneven thread.
6. The kindergarten classroom.
7. He pulled the matching mitten out of his coat pocket.