Name: _____ Date: _____

The Music Box Town Needs a New Song

Circle group

Lila opened her old music box, and a tune began to play. This time she leaned close and saw something new. Below the little dancer was a town no bigger than a thumbnail. Tiny people were frowning.

One person, as small as a grain of rice, waved up at her. "Please help," she called. "We have had the same song for a hundred years. We are tired of it. The hens will not lay eggs."

Lila did not know how to change a music box. But she knew how to hum. She held the lid open and hummed a brand new tune.

The people below swayed. The hens clucked in time. One tiny hen laid an egg as small as a sesame seed.

Lila hummed to the town every Sunday. The old song still played too. The town liked having two.

Questions

1. What did Lila see inside the music box?

_____

_____

2. Why were the people unhappy?

_____

_____

3. How did Lila help the town?

_____

_____

4. What happened when the new tune played?

_____

_____

5. Why did the hens start laying eggs again?

_____

_____

6. How did the town feel about the old song at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

thumbnail: the hard flat part at the tip of your thumb
tune: a short pattern of musical notes
swayed: moved gently from side to side

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 Music Box Town Needs a New Song

Triangle group

Lila opened her old music box and, as usual, a tune began to play. But this time she leaned closer and noticed something new. Inside, below the little dancer, stood a town no bigger than a thumbnail. Tiny people were pointing and frowning.

A person the size of a grain of rice waved up at her. "Please help," she called in a voice like a pin dropping. "We have lived with the same song for a hundred years. Everyone is tired of it, and the hens will not lay eggs."

Lila thought about it. She did not know how to change a music box. But she did know how to hum. She held the lid open and hummed a brand new tune, slow at first and then bouncier.

The people below swayed. The hens began to cluck in time. One tiny hen laid an egg the size of a sesame seed.

From then on, Lila hummed to the town every Sunday. The old song still played too, because the town decided it liked having two.

Questions

1. What did Lila notice inside the music box?

_____

_____

2. Why were the people unhappy?

_____

_____

3. How did Lila help the town?

_____

_____

4. What happened when the new tune played?

_____

_____

5. Why did the hens start laying eggs again?

_____

_____

6. How did the town end up feeling about the old song?

_____

_____

Words to know

thumbnail: the hard flat part at the tip of your thumb
tune: a short pattern of musical notes
swayed: moved gently from side to side
bouncier: more lively and springy

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 Music Box Town Needs a New Song

Square group

Lila opened her old music box and, as usual, a familiar tune began to play. This time, though, she leaned closer and noticed something she had never seen before. Beneath the little dancer stood a town no bigger than a thumbnail, where tiny people were pointing and frowning.

A person the size of a grain of rice waved up at her. "Please help us," she called in a voice like a pin dropping. "We have lived with the same song for a hundred years. Everyone is thoroughly tired of it, and the hens refuse to lay eggs."

Lila considered the problem. She had no idea how to change a music box, but she did know how to hum. Holding the lid open, she hummed a brand new tune, slow at first and then bouncier.

The people below began to sway. The hens clucked in time with the rhythm, and one tiny hen laid an egg the size of a sesame seed.

From then on, Lila hummed to the town every Sunday. The old song kept playing too, because the townspeople decided they enjoyed having two.

Questions

1. What did Lila notice inside the music box?

_____

_____

2. Why were the people unhappy?

_____

_____

3. How did Lila help the town?

_____

_____

4. What happened when the new tune played?

_____

_____

5. Why did the hens start laying eggs again?

_____

_____

6. How did the townspeople end up feeling about the old song?

_____

_____

Words to know

thumbnail: the hard flat part at the tip of your thumb
tune: a short pattern of musical notes
bouncier: more lively and springy

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 Music Box Town Needs a New Song

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

Circle: The Music Box Town Needs a New Song

Easier · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. A tiny town no bigger than a thumbnail.
2. They were tired of the same song, and the hens would not lay eggs.
3. She hummed a brand new tune to them.
4. The people swayed, the hens clucked, and one hen laid an egg.
5. The new music cheered the town up, so the hens felt better.
6. They kept it and liked having two songs.

Triangle: The Music Box Town Needs a New Song

This passage · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. A tiny town no bigger than a thumbnail.
2. They were tired of the same song, and the hens would not lay eggs.
3. She hummed a brand new tune to them.
4. The people swayed, the hens clucked in time, and one hen laid an egg.
5. The new music cheered the town up, so the hens felt better.
6. They kept it and liked having two songs.

Square: The Music Box Town Needs a New Song

Harder · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. A town no bigger than a thumbnail, beneath the little dancer.
2. They were tired of the same song, and the hens refused to lay eggs.
3. She hummed a brand new tune to them.
4. The people swayed, the hens clucked in rhythm, and one hen laid a tiny egg.
5. The new music lifted the town's spirits, so the hens felt better.
6. They kept it and enjoyed having two songs.