Name: _____ Date: _____

The New Kid at Lunch

Circle group

On Monday, a new boy named Tomas came to Ms. Park's class. He had just moved from a faraway town. He did not know anyone. At lunch, he stood in the cafeteria with his tray. All the tables looked full. His stomach felt tight.

Jonah saw him from across the room. Jonah remembered how hard it was when he was new last year. He took his tray and walked over. "You can sit with us," he said. "We have an extra seat."

Tomas sat down and said quietly, "Thanks." Then he opened his lunch box. Inside was a sandwich cut in the shape of a star. "Cool," said Maria. "How did you do that?" Tomas grinned. "My dad has a cookie cutter," he said.

Soon the whole table was laughing and trading stories. When the bell rang, Tomas did not feel tight inside. "See you tomorrow," Jonah said. For the first time all day, Tomas could not wait for tomorrow.

Questions

1. Why did Tomas not know anyone in Ms. Park's class?

_____

_____

2. What was Tomas's problem at lunch?

_____

_____

3. Why did Jonah ask Tomas to sit with them?

_____

_____

4. What was special about Tomas's sandwich?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas's feelings change by the end of lunch?

_____

_____

6. How did the star sandwich help Tomas make friends?

_____

_____

Words to know

cafeteria: a large room in a school where students eat
faraway: a long distance from here
grinned: smiled with a wide, happy face

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 New Kid at Lunch

Triangle group

On Monday, a new boy named Tomas arrived in Ms. Park's class. He had just moved from a faraway town, and he did not know anyone. At lunchtime, he stood in the cafeteria holding his tray while every table looked completely full. His stomach felt tight with worry.

Jonah noticed him from across the room. Jonah remembered how difficult it had been when he was new last year, so he picked up his tray and walked over. "You can sit with us," he said. "We have an extra seat."

Tomas sat down and said quietly, "Thanks." Then he opened his lunch box. Inside was a sandwich cut in the shape of a star. "Cool," said Maria. "How did you do that?" Tomas grinned. "My dad has a cookie cutter," he said.

Soon the whole table was laughing and trading funny stories. By the time the bell rang, Tomas no longer felt nervous inside. "See you tomorrow," Jonah said. For the first time all day, Tomas could not wait for tomorrow.

Questions

1. Why did Tomas not know anyone in Ms. Park's class?

_____

_____

2. What was Tomas's problem at lunch?

_____

_____

3. Why did Jonah invite Tomas to sit with them?

_____

_____

4. What was special about Tomas's sandwich?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas's feelings change by the end of lunch?

_____

_____

6. How did Tomas make his dad's idea help him make friends?

_____

_____

Words to know

cafeteria: a large room in a school where students eat
faraway: a long distance from here
noticed: saw something and paid attention to it
grinned: smiled with a wide, happy face

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 New Kid at Lunch

Square group

On Monday, a new boy named Tomas arrived in Ms. Park's class. He had recently relocated from a faraway town, and he did not know a single person. At lunchtime, he stood in the enormous cafeteria clutching his tray, and every table appeared to be completely occupied. His stomach felt tight with worry.

Jonah noticed him from across the room. Jonah remembered how uncomfortable it had been when he was new last year, so he picked up his tray and walked over to the lonely boy. "You can sit with us," he said. "We have an extra seat."

Tomas sat down and said quietly, "Thanks." Then he opened his lunch box. Inside was a sandwich cut in the shape of a star. "Cool," said Maria. "How did you do that?" Tomas grinned. "My dad has a cookie cutter," he said.

Soon the whole table was laughing and trading entertaining stories. By the time the bell rang, Tomas no longer felt nervous inside. "See you tomorrow," Jonah said. For the first time all day, Tomas could hardly wait for tomorrow.

Questions

1. Why did Tomas not know anyone in Ms. Park's class?

_____

_____

2. What was Tomas's problem at lunchtime?

_____

_____

3. Why did Jonah invite Tomas to sit with them?

_____

_____

4. What was special about Tomas's sandwich?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas's feelings change by the end of lunch?

_____

_____

6. How did the star sandwich help Tomas make friends?

_____

_____

Words to know

cafeteria: a large room in a school where students eat
faraway: a long distance from here
noticed: saw something and paid attention to it
grinned: smiled with a wide, happy face

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 New Kid at Lunch

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

Circle: The New Kid at Lunch

Easier · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. He had just moved from a faraway town.
2. He had no place to sit because all the tables looked full.
3. He remembered how hard it was to be new last year.
4. It was cut in the shape of a star.
5. He went from nervous to happy and looking forward to tomorrow.
6. It gave the others something to talk about, which started a friendly chat.

Triangle: The New Kid at Lunch

This passage · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. He had just moved from a faraway town.
2. He had no place to sit because all the tables looked full.
3. He remembered how hard it was to be new last year.
4. It was cut in the shape of a star.
5. He went from nervous and tight inside to happy and looking forward to the next day.
6. His star sandwich gave the others something to talk about, which started a friendly chat.

Square: The New Kid at Lunch

Harder · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. He had recently moved from a faraway town.
2. He had no place to sit because every table appeared to be full.
3. He remembered how difficult it was to be new last year.
4. It was cut in the shape of a star.
5. He went from anxious and worried to happy and eager for the next day.
6. It gave the others something to talk about, which started a friendly conversation.