Name: _____ Date: _____

The Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

Circle group

Mr. Finch was the principal of Larkspur School. He had a deep, rumbly voice. Everyone knew it. So on a rainy Tuesday, a voice said, "Attention, students. Go outside for a surprise." The whole school stood up.

"Wait," said Ms. Duran, looking out the window. "It is pouring."

The voice came again from the hallway: "Attention, students. Surprise. Surprise."

Ms. Duran tiptoed out. On top of the coat rack sat a green parrot. Mr. Finch's brother had brought the bird to the office that morning. The parrot was named Pickles. He had listened to the speaker announcements for hours.

"Attention," said Pickles. "Walk. Don't run."

The real Mr. Finch hurried down the hall, red in the face. "Is that my voice?" he asked.

"Attention, students," said the parrot. It was a perfect copy.

The children laughed and laughed. Mr. Finch laughed too. Then he had a plan. Each morning, Pickles stood on his shoulder and said, "Good morning, Larkspur!" The students taught the parrot kind sayings. By spring, Pickles could say "Please" and "Thank you." And nobody went out in the rain again.

Questions

1. What did the voice tell students to do on the rainy Tuesday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Ms. Duran find the parrot?

_____

_____

3. What was the parrot's name?

_____

_____

4. How did Pickles learn to sound like the principal?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ms. Duran say, "It is pouring"?

_____

_____

6. How did Mr. Finch turn the mix-up into something good?

_____

_____

Words to know

principal: the person in charge of a school
rumbly: low and deep, like a soft rumble
announcements: messages spoken to a whole group
tiptoed: walked quietly on the tips of the toes

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 Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

Triangle group

Mr. Finch, the principal of Larkspur School, had a deep, rumbly voice. Everyone knew it. So when the voice said, "Attention, students. Go outside for a surprise," on a rainy Tuesday, the whole school stood up.

"Wait," said Ms. Duran, looking out the window. "It is pouring."

The voice came again, from the hallway: "Attention, students. Surprise. Surprise."

Ms. Duran tiptoed out. There, on top of the coat rack, sat a green parrot with a feather out of place. Mr. Finch's brother had brought the bird, named Pickles, to the school office that morning. Pickles had been listening to the speaker announcements for hours.

"Attention," said Pickles. "Walk. Don't run."

The real Mr. Finch hurried down the hall, quite red in the face. "Is that my voice?" he asked.

"Attention, students," said the parrot, in a perfect copy.

The children could not stop laughing. Mr. Finch started to laugh too. Then he had a plan. Every morning after that, Pickles stood on his shoulder and said, "Good morning, Larkspur!" It was Mr. Finch's idea that the students should teach the parrot new, kind sayings. By spring, Pickles could say "Please" and "Thank you," and nobody ever went out in the rain again.

Questions

1. What did the voice tell students to do on the rainy Tuesday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Ms. Duran find the parrot?

_____

_____

3. What was the parrot's name?

_____

_____

4. How had Pickles learned to sound like the principal?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ms. Duran say, "It is pouring"?

_____

_____

6. How did Mr. Finch turn the mix-up into something good?

_____

_____

Words to know

principal: the person in charge of a school
rumbly: low and deep, like a soft rumble
announcements: messages spoken to a whole group
tiptoed: walked quietly on the tips of the toes

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 Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

Square group

Mr. Finch, the principal of Larkspur School, possessed a deep, rumbly voice that everyone recognized. So when that voice announced, "Attention, students. Go outside for a surprise," on a rainy Tuesday, the entire school rose from their desks.

"Wait," said Ms. Duran, glancing out the window. "It is pouring."

The voice came again from the hallway: "Attention, students. Surprise. Surprise."

Ms. Duran tiptoed out to investigate. There, perched on top of the coat rack, sat a green parrot with one feather out of place. Mr. Finch's brother had delivered the bird, named Pickles, to the school office that morning. Pickles had spent hours listening to the speaker announcements.

"Attention," said Pickles. "Walk. Don't run."

The real Mr. Finch hurried down the hall, quite red in the face. "Is that my voice?" he asked.

"Attention, students," said the parrot, in a flawless imitation.

The children could not stop laughing, and soon Mr. Finch was laughing along with them. Then he came up with a plan. Every morning after that, Pickles rode on his shoulder and greeted everyone with, "Good morning, Larkspur!" The students taught the parrot new, kinder phrases, and by spring Pickles could say "Please" and "Thank you." Nobody was ever sent out into the rain again.

Questions

1. What did the voice instruct the students to do on the rainy Tuesday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Ms. Duran discover the parrot?

_____

_____

3. What was the parrot's name?

_____

_____

4. How had Pickles learned to imitate the principal?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ms. Duran point out that it was pouring?

_____

_____

6. How did Mr. Finch turn the mix-up into something positive?

_____

_____

Words to know

principal: the person in charge of a school
rumbly: low and deep, like a soft rumble
announcements: messages spoken to a whole group
tiptoed: walked quietly on the tips of the toes

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 Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

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

Circle: The Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

Easier · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. Go outside for a surprise.
2. On top of the coat rack.
3. Pickles.
4. He listened to the speaker announcements for hours.
5. Going outside in the rain made no sense, so the announcement must be wrong.
6. Students taught Pickles kind sayings like please and thank you.

Triangle: The Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

This passage · 202 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. Go outside for a surprise.
2. On top of the coat rack in the hallway.
3. Pickles.
4. He had listened to the speaker announcements for hours.
5. She knew going outside in the rain made no sense, so the announcement must be wrong.
6. He had students teach Pickles kind sayings like please and thank you.

Square: The Parrot Who Sounded Like Mr. Finch

Harder · 207 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. Go outside for a surprise.
2. Perched on top of the coat rack in the hallway.
3. Pickles.
4. He had listened to the speaker announcements for hours.
5. Going outside in a downpour made no sense, so she doubted the announcement.
6. He had students teach Pickles kind phrases like please and thank you.