Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

Circle group

In late summer, a green vine crept out of Dara's garden. It went through a gap in the fence. It spread across Wes's lawn. At the end of the vine, a small pumpkin grew. By October, it was as big as a beach ball.

"That's my pumpkin," said Dara. "The vine is from my garden. I planted the seeds."

"It's on my lawn," said Wes. "My sprinkler watered it all month."

Neither one would move. They stood on each side of the fence and glared. The pumpkin sat in the middle like a fat orange judge.

Wes's grandmother leaned out of the kitchen window. "I think both of you helped this pumpkin," she said. "Your seeds got it started, Dara. Your sprinkler helped it grow, Wes."

Wes looked at Dara. Dara looked at Wes. They could not argue with that.

They carved it together on a picnic table. Wes drew the face. Dara scooped out the inside. At dusk, they set the glowing pumpkin at the gap in the fence. Its grin faced both houses. Then they roasted the seeds and split them in half.

Questions

1. How did the vine get onto Wes's lawn?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dara think the pumpkin was hers?

_____

_____

3. Why did Wes think the pumpkin was his?

_____

_____

4. Who helped the neighbors stop arguing?

_____

_____

5. Why does the story say the pumpkin sat like a fat orange judge?

_____

_____

6. Why was the gap in the fence a good place for the pumpkin?

_____

_____

Words to know

vine: a plant with a long stem that creeps along the ground
glared: stared at someone in an angry way

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 Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

Triangle group

In late summer, a green vine crept out of Dara's garden, squeezed through a gap in the fence, and began to spread across Wes's lawn. On the end of the vine, a small pumpkin swelled up, and by October it was as big as a beach ball.

"That's my pumpkin," said Dara. "The vine comes from my garden. I planted the seeds."

"It's sitting on my lawn," said Wes. "My sprinkler has watered it all month."

Neither one would budge. They stood on opposite sides of the fence and glared. The pumpkin sat in the middle like a fat orange judge.

Wes's grandmother leaned out of the kitchen window. "Seems to me," she said, "this pumpkin had help from both of you. Your seeds got it started, Dara. Your sprinkler helped it grow, Wes."

Wes looked at Dara. Dara looked at Wes. It was hard to argue with that.

They carved it together on a picnic table, with Wes drawing the face and Dara scooping the inside. At dusk, they set the glowing pumpkin right at the gap in the fence, so its crooked grin faced both houses. Then they roasted the seeds and split them in half, one pile for each side of the fence.

Questions

1. How did the pumpkin vine get onto Wes's lawn?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dara think the pumpkin was hers?

_____

_____

3. Why did Wes think the pumpkin was his?

_____

_____

4. Who helped the two neighbors stop arguing?

_____

_____

5. Why does the story say the pumpkin sat like a fat orange judge?

_____

_____

6. Why was it a good idea to set the pumpkin in the gap in the fence?

_____

_____

Words to know

vine: a plant with a long stem that creeps along the ground
swelled: grew bigger and rounder
budge: to move or change your mind
glared: stared at someone in an angry way

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 Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

Square group

In late summer, a green vine crept out of Dara's garden, wriggled through a gap in the fence, and began to sprawl across Wes's lawn. On the tip of the vine, a small pumpkin slowly swelled. By October, it had grown as big as a beach ball.

"That's my pumpkin," declared Dara. "The vine comes from my garden, and I planted the seeds myself."

"It's sitting on my lawn," Wes replied. "My sprinkler has watered it every day for a month."

Neither one would budge. They stood on opposite sides of the fence and glared at each other, while the pumpkin sat in the middle like a fat orange judge.

Wes's grandmother leaned out of the kitchen window. "Seems to me," she said, "that this pumpkin had help from both of you. Your seeds got it started, Dara. Your sprinkler helped it grow, Wes."

Wes looked at Dara. Dara looked at Wes. It was difficult to argue with that.

Together they carved it at a picnic table, with Wes drawing the face and Dara scooping out the inside. At dusk, they placed the glowing pumpkin right in the gap in the fence, so that its crooked grin faced both houses. Afterward, they roasted the seeds and divided them in half, one pile for each side of the fence.

Questions

1. How did the pumpkin vine end up on Wes's lawn?

_____

_____

2. Why did Dara believe the pumpkin was hers?

_____

_____

3. Why did Wes believe the pumpkin was his?

_____

_____

4. Who helped the two neighbors stop arguing?

_____

_____

5. Why does the story compare the pumpkin to a fat orange judge?

_____

_____

6. Why was the gap in the fence a fitting place to put the glowing pumpkin?

_____

_____

Words to know

vine: a plant with a long stem that creeps along the ground
swelled: grew bigger and rounder
budge: to move or change your mind
glared: stared at someone in an angry way

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 Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

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

Circle: The Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

Easier · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. It went through a gap in the fence from Dara's garden.
2. She planted the seeds, and the vine came from her garden.
3. It sat on his lawn, and his sprinkler watered it.
4. Wes's grandmother.
5. It sat in the middle while they argued, as if it would decide.
6. Both houses could see its face, so it belonged to both.

Triangle: The Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

This passage · 206 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. It squeezed through a gap in the fence from Dara's garden.
2. She had planted the seeds, and the vine came from her garden.
3. It sat on his lawn, and his sprinkler had watered it all month.
4. Wes's grandmother.
5. It sat in the middle while the two argued, as if it would decide who was right.
6. Its face could be seen from both houses, so it belonged to both neighbors.

Square: The Pumpkin That Crossed the Fence

Harder · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. It wriggled through a gap in the fence from Dara's garden.
2. She had planted the seeds, and the vine came from her garden.
3. It sat on his lawn, and his sprinkler had watered it every day for a month.
4. Wes's grandmother.
5. It sat in the middle while the two argued, as if it would decide who was right.
6. Both houses could see its face, so it belonged to both neighbors.