Name: _____ Date: _____

The Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

Circle group

Great-aunt Fern kept an old glass salt shaker by her stove. It looked plain. One summer day, Mei was helping her make soup. Mei shook the shaker over the pot. A small gray cloud puffed out, and a little rain fell into the soup.

"Oh dear," said Great-aunt Fern. "That is a storm shaker. I forgot to tell you."

Mei peeked inside. It was full of tiny white crystals that shimmered. She tipped it, just a pinch, over a dry flowerpot. A cloud hovered over the soil and gave the plant a gentle sprinkle.

"It is not for soup," said Great-aunt Fern, laughing. "It is for thirsty plants."

All week, Mei watered the windowsill plants with a pinch each morning. The basil grew tall and the violets stayed bright.

The soup tasted a bit watery. But Great-aunt Fern said it was the best rainy-day soup ever.

Questions

1. What was special about the salt shaker?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Mei shook it over the soup pot?

_____

_____

3. What was inside the shaker?

_____

_____

4. What did Great-aunt Fern say the shaker was for?

_____

_____

5. How did Mei use the shaker for the rest of the week?

_____

_____

6. Why did the soup taste watery?

_____

_____

Words to know

crystals: tiny hard pieces with flat shiny sides
shimmered: shone with a soft, flickering light
sprinkle: a light, gentle shower of drops

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 Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

Triangle group

Great-aunt Fern kept an old glass salt shaker next to her stove. It looked ordinary, but one summer afternoon, when Mei was helping to make soup, she gave it a shake over the pot. A small gray cloud puffed out, and a little rain fell right into the soup.

"Oh dear," said Great-aunt Fern. "That shaker is a storm shaker. I forgot to tell you."

Mei peeked inside. The shaker was full of tiny white crystals that shimmered. She tipped it again, just a pinch, over the dry flowerpot on the windowsill. A cloud hovered above the soil and gave the plant a gentle sprinkle.

"It is not for soup," said Great-aunt Fern, laughing. "It is for thirsty plants."

For the rest of the week, Mei watered the whole windowsill garden with just a pinch each morning. The basil grew tall and the violets stayed bright.

The soup, by the way, tasted a bit watery. But Mei's great-aunt said it was the best rainy-day soup she had ever eaten.

Questions

1. What was special about the salt shaker?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Mei shook it over the soup pot?

_____

_____

3. What was inside the shaker?

_____

_____

4. What did Great-aunt Fern say the shaker was really for?

_____

_____

5. How did Mei use the shaker for the rest of the week?

_____

_____

6. Why did the soup taste watery?

_____

_____

Words to know

ordinary: plain and normal, not special
crystals: tiny hard pieces with flat shiny sides
shimmered: shone with a soft, flickering light
sprinkle: a light, gentle shower of drops

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 Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

Square group

Great-aunt Fern kept an old glass salt shaker beside her stove. It looked perfectly ordinary, but one summer afternoon, while Mei was helping to make soup, she gave it a casual shake over the pot. A small gray cloud puffed out, and a light rain fell directly into the soup.

"Oh dear," said Great-aunt Fern. "That shaker is a storm shaker. I completely forgot to mention it."

Mei peered inside. It was filled with tiny white crystals that shimmered like frost. She tipped it again, using only a pinch, over a dry flowerpot on the windowsill. A cloud hovered above the soil and gave the plant a gentle sprinkle.

"It is not meant for soup," said Great-aunt Fern, laughing. "It is meant for thirsty plants."

For the rest of the week, Mei watered the entire windowsill garden with a single pinch each morning. The basil grew tall and the violets stayed bright.

The soup, by the way, tasted a bit watery. Yet Great-aunt Fern declared it the finest rainy-day soup she had ever eaten.

Questions

1. What was special about the salt shaker?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Mei shook it over the soup pot?

_____

_____

3. What was inside the shaker?

_____

_____

4. What did Great-aunt Fern say the shaker was meant for?

_____

_____

5. How did Mei use the shaker for the rest of the week?

_____

_____

6. Why did the soup taste watery?

_____

_____

Words to know

ordinary: plain and normal, not special
crystals: tiny hard pieces with flat shiny sides
shimmered: shone with a soft, flickering light
sprinkle: a light, gentle shower of drops

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 Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

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

Circle: The Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

Easier · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. It was a storm shaker that made a small rain cloud.
2. A small cloud puffed out and rain fell into the soup.
3. Tiny white crystals that shimmered.
4. Thirsty plants.
5. She gave the windowsill plants a pinch each morning.
6. The rain had fallen into the pot and added extra water.

Triangle: The Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

This passage · 174 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. It was a storm shaker that made a small rain cloud when shaken.
2. A small cloud puffed out and rain fell into the soup.
3. Tiny white crystals that shimmered.
4. Thirsty plants.
5. She gave the windowsill plants a pinch each morning to water them.
6. The rain from the cloud had fallen into the pot and added extra water.

Square: The Salt Shaker That Shook Up a Storm

Harder · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. It was a storm shaker that produced a small rain cloud when shaken.
2. A small gray cloud puffed out and rain fell into the soup.
3. Tiny white crystals that shimmered like frost.
4. Thirsty plants.
5. She watered the windowsill garden with a single pinch each morning.
6. The rain from the cloud had fallen into the pot and added extra water.