Name: _____ Date: _____

The Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

Circle group

The stairs in Ravi's new house had thirteen steps. He counted them each night. But on a stormy evening, he counted fourteen. The fourteenth was only half as tall as the rest.

It was at the bottom, tucked under the first step. When Ravi stepped on it, it gave a soft chime, like a spoon on a glass. The wall beside it slid open a crack.

Behind it was a closet the size of a bookshelf. It held a lantern, a ball of yarn, and a note. The note said, "You may borrow the lantern. Put it back by morning."

Ravi took the lantern upstairs and read under his blanket. It glowed orange and never got hot. He read three chapters.

At sunrise he set it back where he found it. The half step chimed once, as if to say thank you. Then it was gone.

Questions

1. How many steps did the staircase usually have?

_____

_____

2. What was different about the extra step?

_____

_____

3. What was hidden behind the wall?

_____

_____

4. What did the note say Ravi could do?

_____

_____

5. What did Ravi do with the lantern?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the half step chimed at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

chime: a clear, ringing musical sound
tucked: pushed into a small hidden space
lantern: a lamp with a handle that you can carry

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 Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

Triangle group

The stairs in Ravi's new house had thirteen steps. He counted them each night on the way to bed. But on the first stormy evening, he counted fourteen, and the fourteenth was only half as tall as the rest.

The half step was at the very bottom, tucked under the first one. When Ravi stepped on it, it gave a soft chime, like a spoon on a glass. The wall beside it slid open a crack.

Behind it was a closet the size of a bookshelf. It held a lantern, a ball of yarn, and a small note. The note said, "Whoever finds the half step may borrow the lantern, but must put it back by morning."

Ravi took the lantern upstairs to read under his blanket. It glowed a warm orange and never got hot. He read three chapters.

At sunrise he carried it down and set it exactly where he had found it. The half step chimed once, as if saying thank you, and then it was gone.

Questions

1. How many steps did the staircase usually have?

_____

_____

2. What was different about the extra step?

_____

_____

3. What was hidden behind the wall?

_____

_____

4. What did the note say Ravi could do?

_____

_____

5. What did Ravi do with the lantern?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the half step chimed at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

chime: a clear, ringing musical sound
tucked: pushed into a small hidden space
lantern: a lamp with a handle that you can carry
exactly: in just the right way, with no change

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 Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

Square group

The staircase in Ravi's new house had thirteen steps, and he counted them every night on the way to bed. On the first stormy evening, however, he counted fourteen, and the fourteenth was only half as tall as all the others.

The half step sat at the very bottom, tucked beneath the first full one. When Ravi stepped onto it, it gave a soft chime, like a spoon tapping a glass, and the wall beside it slid open a crack.

Behind the wall was a closet the size of a bookshelf. Inside were a lantern, a ball of yarn, and a small folded note. The note read, "Whoever finds the half step may borrow the lantern, but must return it by morning."

Ravi carried the lantern upstairs to read beneath his blanket. It glowed a warm orange and never grew hot. He finished three chapters before he fell asleep.

At sunrise he carried it down and placed it exactly where he had found it. The half step chimed once, as if offering its thanks, and then it vanished.

Questions

1. How many steps did the staircase usually have?

_____

_____

2. What was different about the extra step?

_____

_____

3. What was hidden behind the wall?

_____

_____

4. What did the note say Ravi could do?

_____

_____

5. What did Ravi do with the lantern?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the half step chimed at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

chime: a clear, ringing musical sound
tucked: pushed into a small hidden space
lantern: a lamp with a handle that you can carry
exactly: in just the right way, with no change

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 Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

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

Circle: The Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

Easier · 146 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. Thirteen steps.
2. It was half as tall as the others and chimed when stepped on.
3. A small closet with a lantern, a ball of yarn, and a note.
4. Borrow the lantern but put it back by morning.
5. He read three chapters under his blanket.
6. It said thank you because Ravi put the lantern back.

Triangle: The Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

This passage · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. Thirteen steps.
2. It was only half as tall as the others and chimed when stepped on.
3. A small closet holding a lantern, a ball of yarn, and a note.
4. Borrow the lantern but put it back by morning.
5. He used it to read three chapters under his blanket.
6. It was saying thank you because Ravi put the lantern back as asked.

Square: The Staircase With Thirteen and a Half Steps

Harder · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. Thirteen steps.
2. It was only half as tall as the others and gave a soft chime.
3. A small closet holding a lantern, a ball of yarn, and a folded note.
4. Borrow the lantern but return it by morning.
5. He used it to read three chapters beneath his blanket.
6. It was thanking Ravi for returning the lantern exactly as asked.