Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tape Line Down the Middle

Circle group

When Grandma moved into the spare room, Ellie and Joy had to share a bedroom. Ellie did not like it. "Let's make a line," she said. She put a strip of blue tape down the middle of the floor. "My side, your side. No crossing without asking."

Joy had the window side. Ellie had the door and the closet. For a few days, it felt fair.

Then the problems began. The only outlet in the room was on Ellie's side. Joy needed it to charge her reading light. Every evening, she had to ask, "May I cross?" Ellie rolled her eyes every time.

Ellie's little cactus needed sun. The only sunny spot was the windowsill on Joy's side. Now Ellie had to ask, too.

One night, after the fourth "May I cross?" in a row, Joy started to giggle. "Our line is silly," she said.

Ellie tried not to smile, but she lost. "Very silly," she said.

They peeled up most of the tape. They left one small square in the middle of the room. They called it the Meeting Zone. It was where they did puzzles. The only rule was that both of them had to sit there.

Questions

1. Why did Ellie and Joy share a bedroom?

_____

_____

2. What did Ellie put down the middle of the floor?

_____

_____

3. Why did Joy need to cross to Ellie's side?

_____

_____

4. Why did Ellie need to cross to Joy's side?

_____

_____

5. Why did Joy start to giggle?

_____

_____

6. What does the Meeting Zone show about the sisters?

_____

_____

Words to know

outlet: a place in the wall where you plug in a cord
windowsill: the ledge at the bottom of a window
giggle: to laugh in a quiet, silly way
cactus: a prickly plant that grows in dry places

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 Tape Line Down the Middle

Triangle group

When Grandma moved into the spare room, Ellie and Joy had to share a bedroom. Ellie did not like the idea. "Let's make a line," she said. She ran a strip of blue tape down the middle of the floor. "My side, your side. No crossing without asking."

Joy had the window side. Ellie had the door and the closet. For a few days, it felt fair.

Then the problems began. The only outlet in the room was on Ellie's side, and Joy needed it to charge her reading light. Every evening, she had to knock on the air and ask, "May I cross?" Ellie rolled her eyes every time.

Meanwhile, Ellie's little cactus needed sunshine, and the only sunny spot was the windowsill on Joy's side. Now Ellie had to ask, too.

One night, after the fourth "May I cross?" in a row, Joy started to giggle. "Our line is silly," she said.

Ellie tried not to smile, but she lost. "Very silly," she agreed.

They peeled up most of the tape, but they left one small square of it in the middle of the room. They called it the Meeting Zone. It was the spot where they did puzzles, and the only rule was that both of them had to sit there.

Questions

1. Why did Ellie and Joy have to share a bedroom?

_____

_____

2. What did Ellie put down the middle of the floor?

_____

_____

3. Why did Joy need to cross to Ellie's side?

_____

_____

4. Why did Ellie need to cross to Joy's side?

_____

_____

5. Why did Joy start to giggle?

_____

_____

6. What does the Meeting Zone show about the sisters?

_____

_____

Words to know

outlet: a place in the wall where you plug in a cord
windowsill: the ledge at the bottom of a window
giggle: to laugh in a quiet, silly way
cactus: a prickly plant that grows in dry places

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 Tape Line Down the Middle

Square group

When Grandma moved into the spare room, Ellie and Joy were forced to share a bedroom, and Ellie was not pleased about it. "Let's make a line," she announced. She stretched a strip of blue tape down the middle of the floor. "My side, your side. No crossing without asking."

Joy took the window side, while Ellie kept the door and the closet. For a few days, the arrangement seemed perfectly fair.

Then the complications began. The only outlet in the room was on Ellie's side, and Joy needed it to charge her reading light. Every evening, she had to knock on the empty air and ask, "May I cross?" Ellie rolled her eyes each time.

Meanwhile, Ellie's little cactus needed sunshine, and the only sunny spot was the windowsill on Joy's side. Now Ellie had to ask permission, too.

One night, after the fourth "May I cross?" in a row, Joy began to giggle. "Our line is silly," she said.

Ellie tried not to smile, but she failed. "Very silly," she agreed.

They peeled up most of the tape, but they left one small square in the middle of the room. They named it the Meeting Zone. It became the place where they worked on puzzles, and its only rule was that both of them had to sit there.

Questions

1. Why were Ellie and Joy forced to share a bedroom?

_____

_____

2. What did Ellie stretch down the middle of the floor?

_____

_____

3. Why did Joy need to cross onto Ellie's side?

_____

_____

4. Why did Ellie have to ask permission to cross onto Joy's side?

_____

_____

5. Why did Joy begin to giggle after the fourth request?

_____

_____

6. What does the Meeting Zone reveal about the sisters?

_____

_____

Words to know

outlet: a place in the wall where you plug in a cord
windowsill: the ledge at the bottom of a window
giggle: to laugh in a quiet, silly way
cactus: a prickly plant that grows in dry places

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 Tape Line Down the Middle

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

Circle: The Tape Line Down the Middle

Easier · 199 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. Grandma moved into the spare room.
2. A strip of blue tape.
3. The only outlet was there, and she needed it for her reading light.
4. Her cactus needed sun, and the only sunny spot was Joy's windowsill.
5. She saw that the line made both girls keep asking to cross, which was silly.
6. They chose to share and spend time together.

Triangle: The Tape Line Down the Middle

This passage · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Grandma moved into the spare room.
2. A strip of blue tape.
3. The only outlet was on Ellie's side, and she needed it for her reading light.
4. Her cactus needed sunshine, and the only sunny spot was Joy's windowsill.
5. She realized that the line made both of them ask permission all the time, which was silly.
6. They decided to share and spend time together instead of keeping apart.

Square: The Tape Line Down the Middle

Harder · 220 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. Grandma moved into the spare room.
2. A strip of blue tape.
3. The only outlet was on Ellie's side, and she needed it to charge her reading light.
4. Her cactus needed sunshine, and the only sunny spot was Joy's windowsill.
5. She realized the line forced both girls to ask permission constantly, which was silly.
6. They decided to share and spend time together instead of staying apart.