Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tuba Case Card Table

Circle group

Marcus played the tuba. The tuba had a case the size of a small refrigerator. Every morning on Bus 9, the case took up almost a whole seat. Marcus squeezed into the last few inches by the window.

Nobody wanted to sit next to him. "There is no room," the kids said. Marcus pretended he did not hear.

One Thursday, Hana got on the bus late. The only empty spot was next to Marcus and the tuba. She sighed and sat down. The case pressed on her knees.

"Sorry," said Marcus. "It does not fit anywhere."

Hana looked at the case. Its lid was flat and wide. She pulled a deck of cards out of her backpack. "Hey," she said, "it is a table."

They put the cards on the lid and played a game all the way to school. The bus bumped. The cards slid. They did not care. Hana won twice. Marcus won once. He laughed so loud that the driver looked in her mirror.

The next morning, Hana saved him a seat. Soon two more kids asked to play. The back seat became the busiest place on Bus 9.

Questions

1. What instrument did Marcus play?

_____

_____

2. Why did nobody want to sit next to Marcus?

_____

_____

3. What did Hana take out of her backpack?

_____

_____

4. What did Hana use as a table?

_____

_____

5. Why did Marcus pretend he did not hear the kids?

_____

_____

6. How did the back seat change by the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

tuba: a very large brass instrument that plays low notes
squeezed: pushed into a small space
sighed: let out a long breath, often when tired or sad
deck: a full set of playing cards

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 Tuba Case Card Table

Triangle group

Marcus played the tuba, and the tuba had a case the size of a small refrigerator. Every morning on Bus 9, the case took up almost a whole seat. Marcus squeezed into the last few inches by the window.

Nobody wanted to sit next to him. "There is no room," the kids said. Marcus pretended he did not hear.

One Thursday, Hana got on the bus late, and the only empty spot was beside Marcus and the tuba. She sighed and sat down. The case pressed against her knees.

"Sorry," said Marcus. "It does not fit anywhere."

Hana looked at the case. Its lid was flat and wide. Then she pulled a deck of cards out of her backpack. "Hey," she said, "it is a table."

They laid the cards on the lid and played a game all the way to school. The bus bumped, and the cards slid, but they did not care. Hana won twice. Marcus won once, and he laughed so loudly that the driver looked in her mirror.

The next morning, Hana saved him a seat. Soon two more kids asked to join, and the back seat became the busiest place on Bus 9.

Questions

1. What instrument did Marcus play?

_____

_____

2. Why did nobody want to sit next to Marcus?

_____

_____

3. What did Hana pull out of her backpack?

_____

_____

4. What did Hana use as a table?

_____

_____

5. Why did Marcus pretend he did not hear the kids?

_____

_____

6. How did the back seat change by the end of the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

tuba: a very large brass instrument that plays low notes
squeezed: pushed into a small space
sighed: let out a long breath, often when tired or sad
deck: a full set of playing cards

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 Tuba Case Card Table

Square group

Marcus played the tuba, and the tuba came with a case the size of a small refrigerator. Every morning on Bus 9, that enormous case claimed almost an entire seat, and Marcus wedged himself into the last few inches beside the window.

Nobody wanted to sit next to him. "There is no room," the other kids complained. Marcus pretended he did not hear them.

One Thursday, Hana boarded the bus late, and the only empty spot was beside Marcus and his tuba. She sighed and sat down, with the case pressing against her knees.

"Sorry," said Marcus. "It does not fit anywhere."

Hana studied the case. Its lid was flat and wide. Then she pulled a deck of cards out of her backpack. "Hey," she said, "it is a table."

They laid the cards on the lid and played a game all the way to school. The bus bumped and the cards slid, but neither of them cared. Hana won twice, and Marcus won once, and he laughed so loudly that the driver glanced into her mirror.

The next morning, Hana saved him a seat. Before long, two more kids asked to join, and the back seat turned into the busiest spot on Bus 9.

Questions

1. What instrument did Marcus play?

_____

_____

2. Why did nobody want to sit beside Marcus?

_____

_____

3. What did Hana pull out of her backpack?

_____

_____

4. What did Hana use as a table?

_____

_____

5. Why did Marcus pretend he did not hear the other kids?

_____

_____

6. How did the back seat change by the end of the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

tuba: a very large brass instrument that plays low notes
sighed: let out a long breath, often when tired or sad
deck: a full set of playing cards

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 Tuba Case Card Table

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

Circle: The Tuba Case Card Table

Easier · 190 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. The tuba.
2. His tuba case took up almost a whole seat.
3. A deck of cards.
4. The flat lid of the tuba case.
5. It hurt his feelings. He did not want them to see.
6. It went from empty to the busiest, friendliest place on the bus.

Triangle: The Tuba Case Card Table

This passage · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. The tuba.
2. His tuba case took up almost a whole seat.
3. A deck of cards.
4. The flat lid of the tuba case.
5. It hurt his feelings, and he did not want them to see.
6. It went from empty and unwanted to the busiest, friendliest place on the bus.

Square: The Tuba Case Card Table

Harder · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. The tuba.
2. His enormous tuba case claimed almost an entire seat.
3. A deck of cards.
4. The flat, wide lid of the tuba case.
5. Their words hurt his feelings, and he did not want them to see.
6. It went from being avoided to being the busiest, friendliest spot on the bus.