Name: _____ Date: _____

The Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

Circle group

At noon on Tuesday, the old clock on the library tower chimed thirteen times. Nina was eating lunch on the steps. She counted each bong two times.

"Clocks do not make mistakes," said the librarian. "Somebody must have changed it."

Nina did not think so. She took the librarian's key and went up the stairs. Inside, the gears turned and clicked. Nina saw dry twigs stuck between two wheels.

A small nest sat in the corner. A sparrow sat on its edge. The bird had come in through a broken window. One twig had fallen into the gears.

Nina used a long wooden spoon from her lunch bag. She pulled out the twigs. The gears ran right again. Then she asked the librarian to cover the window with wire. They left a small gap for the sparrow.

At one o'clock, the clock chimed one time.

Questions

1. How many times did the clock chime at noon?

_____

_____

2. Where was Nina when she heard it?

_____

_____

3. What was stuck between the wheels?

_____

_____

4. What did Nina use to pull out the twigs?

_____

_____

5. Why did they leave a gap in the wire?

_____

_____

6. Why did the librarian think somebody changed the clock?

_____

_____

Words to know

chimed: rang out with a bell sound
gears: wheels with teeth that turn together inside a machine
tower: a tall, narrow part of a building

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 Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

Triangle group

On Tuesday at noon, the old clock on the library tower did something strange. It chimed thirteen times. Nina was eating lunch on the steps, and she counted every bong twice to be sure.

"Clocks do not make mistakes," said the librarian. "Somebody must have changed it."

Nina did not think so. She looked at the tower door, and it was locked tight. So she climbed the narrow stairs with the librarian's key and went inside. The gears turned slowly, clicking and humming. Near the big bell, Nina noticed a few dry twigs stuck between two wheels.

She looked up and saw a small nest tucked in a corner. A sparrow sat on the edge, watching her. The bird had been carrying twigs in through a broken window, and one had fallen into the machinery.

Nina pulled out the twigs with a long wooden spoon from her lunch bag. The gears clicked back into their proper rhythm. Then she asked the librarian to cover the window with a bit of wire, leaving a little gap for the sparrow's front door.

At one o'clock the clock chimed exactly once.

Questions

1. How many times did the clock chime at noon on Tuesday?

_____

_____

2. Where was Nina when she heard the clock?

_____

_____

3. What did Nina find between the wheels?

_____

_____

4. What did Nina use to pull out the twigs?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nina ask for a gap to be left in the wire?

_____

_____

6. Why did the librarian first think somebody had changed the clock?

_____

_____

Words to know

chimed: rang out with a bell sound
gears: wheels with teeth that turn together inside a machine
tower: a tall, narrow part of a building
machinery: the moving parts of a machine
rhythm: a steady, repeating beat

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 Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

Square group

On Tuesday at noon, the venerable clock atop the library tower did something peculiar, because it chimed thirteen times. Nina was eating her lunch on the front steps, and she counted every single bong twice to be absolutely certain.

"Clocks do not make mistakes," declared the librarian. "Somebody must have tampered with it."

Nina was not convinced. The tower door was locked tight, so she borrowed the librarian's key and climbed the narrow, winding stairs. Inside, the enormous gears turned slowly, clicking and humming. Near the great bell, Nina noticed a handful of dry twigs wedged between two wheels.

When she glanced upward, she spotted a small nest tucked into a corner, and a sparrow perched on its rim, watching her closely. The bird had been carrying twigs in through a broken window, and one of them had tumbled into the machinery.

Nina removed the twigs with the long wooden spoon she had packed in her lunch bag, and the gears settled back into their proper rhythm. Afterward, she asked the librarian to cover the window with sturdy wire, leaving a small gap that would serve as the sparrow's front door.

At one o'clock, the clock chimed exactly once.

Questions

1. How many times did the clock chime at noon on Tuesday?

_____

_____

2. What was Nina doing when she heard the clock?

_____

_____

3. What did Nina discover wedged between two wheels?

_____

_____

4. What did Nina use to remove the twigs?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nina want a small gap left in the wire?

_____

_____

6. Why did the librarian first suspect that someone had changed the clock?

_____

_____

Words to know

chimed: rang out with a bell sound
gears: wheels with teeth that turn together inside a machine
tower: a tall, narrow part of a building
machinery: the moving parts of a machine
rhythm: a steady, repeating beat

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 Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

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

Circle: The Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

Easier · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Thirteen times.
2. On the library steps, eating lunch.
3. Dry twigs.
4. A long wooden spoon.
5. So the sparrow could still get in and out of its nest.
6. She thought clocks do not make mistakes by themselves.

Triangle: The Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

This passage · 188 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. Thirteen times.
2. She was eating lunch on the library steps.
3. A few dry twigs.
4. A long wooden spoon from her lunch bag.
5. She wanted the sparrow to keep a way in and out of its nest.
6. She believed clocks do not make mistakes on their own.

Square: The Town Clock That Chimed Thirteen

Harder · 199 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. Thirteen times.
2. Eating lunch on the library's front steps.
3. A handful of dry twigs.
4. The long wooden spoon from her lunch bag.
5. It gave the sparrow a way in and out of its nest.
6. She believed clocks do not make mistakes on their own.