Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tuba Player's Missing Mouthpiece

Circle group

Twenty minutes before the school parade, Gabe opened his tuba case. The mouthpiece was gone. Without it, his big tuba could not play one note.

"Do not panic," said Ms. Okafor, the band director. "Think. When did you last have it?"

Gabe thought hard. After practice, he had wiped the mouthpiece with a cloth. Then he had talked with his friend Tess about her new flute. He put something in his jacket pocket. But today he wore a different jacket.

He ran to the coat closet. His gray jacket hung in the back. The right pocket was empty. In the left pocket, he felt something cool and round. It was the mouthpiece, wrapped in the cloth.

He ran back with two minutes to spare. Ms. Okafor gave him a thumbs-up.

In the parade, Gabe marched near the front. His deep notes made the crowd cheer. Later, he taped a label inside his case. It said, "Mouthpiece goes HERE."

Questions

1. What was missing from the tuba case?

_____

_____

2. Who is Ms. Okafor?

_____

_____

3. Which pocket had the mouthpiece?

_____

_____

4. What was the mouthpiece wrapped in?

_____

_____

5. Why was it not in his case?

_____

_____

6. Why did Gabe tape a label in his case?

_____

_____

Words to know

mouthpiece: the part of a horn that you blow into
director: the person who leads a group
parade: a line of people marching to celebrate something

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 Player's Missing Mouthpiece

Triangle group

Twenty minutes before the school parade, Gabe opened his tuba case and froze. The mouthpiece was gone. Without it, his huge golden tuba could not make a single note.

"Don't panic," said Ms. Okafor, the band director. "Think. When did you last have it?"

Gabe thought hard. After yesterday's practice, he had wiped the mouthpiece with a cloth. Then he had been talking to his friend Tess about her new flute. He remembered putting something into his jacket pocket, but he had worn a different jacket this morning.

He raced to the coat closet and found his gray jacket hanging in the back. He checked the right pocket and found nothing. In the left pocket, his fingers closed around something cool and round. It was the mouthpiece, wrapped in the soft cloth.

He ran back to the band room with two minutes to spare. Ms. Okafor gave him a thumbs-up.

When the parade began, Gabe marched near the front, and his deep, rumbling notes made the crowd cheer. After that day, he taped a small label inside his case that read, "Mouthpiece goes HERE."

Questions

1. What was missing from Gabe's tuba case?

_____

_____

2. Who is Ms. Okafor?

_____

_____

3. Which pocket held the mouthpiece?

_____

_____

4. What was the mouthpiece wrapped in?

_____

_____

5. Why did Gabe not find the mouthpiece in his case?

_____

_____

6. Why did Gabe tape a label inside his case?

_____

_____

Words to know

mouthpiece: the part of a horn that you blow into
director: the person who leads a group
parade: a line of people marching to celebrate something
rumbling: making a low, rolling sound

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 Player's Missing Mouthpiece

Square group

Twenty minutes before the school parade was due to begin, Gabe opened his tuba case and froze. The mouthpiece had disappeared. Without it, his enormous golden tuba could not produce a single note.

"Do not panic," advised Ms. Okafor, the band director. "Think carefully. When did you last have it?"

Gabe racked his brain. After yesterday's practice, he had polished the mouthpiece with a soft cloth. Then he had chatted with his friend Tess about her brand-new flute. He remembered slipping something into his jacket pocket, but he had worn a different jacket this morning.

He dashed to the coat closet and found his gray jacket hanging at the very back. The right pocket was empty. In the left pocket, however, his fingers closed around something cool and round. It was the mouthpiece, still wrapped in the cloth.

He sprinted back to the band room with two minutes to spare, and Ms. Okafor gave him an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

When the parade began, Gabe marched near the front, and his deep, rumbling notes made the crowd cheer. Afterward, he taped a small label inside his case that read, "Mouthpiece goes HERE."

Questions

1. What was missing from Gabe's tuba case?

_____

_____

2. What is Ms. Okafor's job?

_____

_____

3. In which pocket did Gabe find the mouthpiece?

_____

_____

4. What was the mouthpiece still wrapped in?

_____

_____

5. Why was the mouthpiece not in Gabe's case?

_____

_____

6. Why did Gabe tape a label inside his case?

_____

_____

Words to know

mouthpiece: the part of a horn that you blow into
director: the person who leads a group
parade: a line of people marching to celebrate something
rumbling: making a low, rolling sound

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 Player's Missing Mouthpiece

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

Circle: The Tuba Player's Missing Mouthpiece

Easier · 159 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. The mouthpiece.
2. The band director.
3. The left pocket of the gray jacket.
4. A cloth.
5. He put it in a jacket pocket and wore a different jacket today.
6. So he would remember where the mouthpiece goes.

Triangle: The Tuba Player's Missing Mouthpiece

This passage · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. The mouthpiece.
2. The band director.
3. The left pocket of his gray jacket.
4. A soft cloth.
5. He had put it in a jacket pocket yesterday, then wore a different jacket this morning.
6. He wanted to remember where the mouthpiece belongs so he would not lose it again.

Square: The Tuba Player's Missing Mouthpiece

Harder · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. The mouthpiece.
2. She is the band director.
3. The left pocket of his gray jacket.
4. A soft cloth.
5. He had slipped it into a jacket pocket yesterday, then wore a different jacket this morning.
6. He wanted to remember where the mouthpiece belongs so he would never lose it again.