Name: _____ Date: _____

Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

Circle group

The climbing wall in the gym was painted to look like a mountain. Colored plastic grips were spread over it like candy. Anouk had tried the wall once. She had made it two steps. Then she looked down and froze.

This time the instructor, Ms. Delgado, had a new plan. "We're going sideways today," she said. "It's called a traverse. You stay low. Your feet are never more than an arm's length from the mats."

Anouk put on her harness and checked her knots with Ms. Delgado. She put her left hand on a blue grip and her right foot on a yellow one. Her heart thumped like a drum. She slid a hand to a green grip. Then a foot. Then the other hand.

"Look at your feet," called Ms. Delgado. "Don't look at the whole wall. Look at where your foot goes next."

That made it small. It was not one huge mountain. It was a yellow grip, then a red one, then a bumpy white one. Her fingers began to ache a bit, but her fear faded to a quiet hum.

At the far end, Anouk touched the painted flag that marked the finish. She let go and dropped softly to the mat. She spun around and looked back at the long line of grips she had crossed.

"That's a mountain," said Ms. Delgado with a grin, "for one afternoon."

Questions

1. What happened the first time Anouk tried the wall?

_____

_____

2. What is a traverse?

_____

_____

3. What did Ms. Delgado tell Anouk to look at?

_____

_____

4. What was the finish of the traverse?

_____

_____

5. Why did looking at the next grip make Anouk less afraid?

_____

_____

6. What did Ms. Delgado mean by a mountain for one afternoon?

_____

_____

Words to know

traverse: to move sideways across something
harness: straps worn to keep a climber safe
grips: small holds that a climber's hands and feet use
instructor: a person who teaches a skill

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: _____

Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

Triangle group

The climbing wall in the gym was painted to look like a mountain, with colored plastic grips scattered over it like candy. Anouk had been on the wall once and had made it exactly two steps before looking down and freezing.

This time the instructor, Ms. Delgado, had a different plan. "We're going sideways today," she said. "It's called a traverse. You stay low, and your feet are never more than an arm's length from the mats."

Anouk strapped on her harness and checked her knots with Ms. Delgado. Then she put her left hand on a blue grip and her right foot on a yellow one. Her heart thumped like a drum. She slid a hand along to a green grip. Then a foot. Then the other hand.

"Look at your feet," called Ms. Delgado. "Don't look at the whole wall. Look at where your foot goes next."

That made it small. Instead of one enormous mountain, there was only a yellow grip, then a red one, then a bumpy white one. Her fingers began to ache a little, but her fear faded to a quiet hum.

When Anouk reached the far end of the wall, she touched the painted flag that marked the finish. She let go, dropped softly to the mat, and spun around to look back at the long line of grips she had crossed.

"That's a mountain," said Ms. Delgado, grinning, "for one afternoon."

Questions

1. What happened the first time Anouk tried the climbing wall?

_____

_____

2. What is a traverse?

_____

_____

3. What did Ms. Delgado tell Anouk to look at?

_____

_____

4. What was the finish line of the traverse?

_____

_____

5. Why did looking at only the next grip make Anouk less afraid?

_____

_____

6. What did Ms. Delgado mean by saying it was a mountain for one afternoon?

_____

_____

Words to know

traverse: to move sideways across something
harness: straps worn to keep a climber safe
grips: small holds that a climber's hands and feet use
instructor: a person who teaches a skill

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: _____

Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

Square group

The climbing wall in the gym had been painted to resemble a mountain, with colored plastic grips scattered across it like pieces of candy. Anouk had tried the wall once before, and she had managed exactly two steps before she glanced down and froze.

This time the instructor, Ms. Delgado, had devised a different plan. "We're going sideways today," she announced. "It's called a traverse. You stay low, and your feet are never more than an arm's length above the mats."

Anouk strapped on her harness and checked her knots with Ms. Delgado. Then she placed her left hand on a blue grip and her right foot on a yellow one, while her heart thumped like a drum. She slid one hand along to a green grip, then a foot, then the other hand.

"Look at your feet," called Ms. Delgado. "Don't stare at the whole wall. Just look at where your foot is going next."

That made the climb seem small. Instead of one enormous mountain, there was merely a yellow grip, then a red one, then a bumpy white one. Her fingers began to ache a little, but her fear faded into a quiet hum.

When Anouk reached the far end of the wall, she touched the painted flag that marked the finish. She let go, dropped softly onto the mat, and spun around to look back at the long line of grips she had crossed.

"That's a mountain," said Ms. Delgado, grinning, "for one afternoon."

Questions

1. What happened the first time Anouk tried the climbing wall?

_____

_____

2. What is a traverse?

_____

_____

3. What did Ms. Delgado tell Anouk to look at?

_____

_____

4. What marked the finish of the traverse?

_____

_____

5. Why did looking only at the next grip make Anouk less afraid?

_____

_____

6. What did Ms. Delgado mean by calling it a mountain for one afternoon?

_____

_____

Words to know

traverse: to move sideways across something
harness: straps worn to keep a climber safe
grips: small holds that a climber's hands and feet use
instructor: a person who teaches a skill

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: Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

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

Circle: Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

Easier · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. She climbed two steps, looked down, and froze.
2. Climbing sideways while staying low, near the mats.
3. Her feet and where her foot goes next.
4. A painted flag at the far end of the wall.
5. It made the climb feel small, not like one huge mountain.
6. Anouk had done something big for her, even on a low wall.

Triangle: Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

This passage · 239 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. She climbed two steps, looked down, and froze.
2. Climbing sideways while staying low, near the mats.
3. Her feet and the place where her foot goes next.
4. A painted flag at the far end of the wall.
5. It made the climb feel small instead of like one huge mountain.
6. Anouk had done something big for her, even though the wall was low.

Square: Anouk Crosses the Gym Wall Sideways

Harder · 248 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. She managed two steps, glanced down, and froze.
2. Climbing sideways while staying low, close to the mats.
3. Her feet and the place where her foot was going next.
4. A painted flag at the far end of the wall.
5. It made the climb seem small instead of like one enormous mountain.
6. Anouk had accomplished something big for her, even on a low wall.