Name: _____ Date: _____

The Bottle That Held Only a Seed

Circle group

On a gray morning after a storm, Imani went to the beach with her father. The sea had left piles of seaweed, a lost flip-flop, and a green glass bottle half buried in the sand.

Imani shook the bottle. Something rattled. She pulled out the cork. One seed rolled into her hand, with a curled slip of paper. The paper said, Plant me where the sea can see me but cannot touch me.

"Is that a riddle?" asked her father.

"It is an instruction," said Imani. "But the sea can see all of a beach."

She sat on a log and thought. The sea touched the wet sand, so that was no good. But the sea moved. At high tide it came up the beach to one line and then slid back. She walked along the shore until she found it. A crooked ribbon of dried seaweed and shells showed where the highest waves had stopped.

"Past that line, the waves cannot reach the seed," she said, "but the sea can still watch it."

She went up to the soft dunes, dug a hole with a shell, and dropped in the seed. Her father pushed a stick of driftwood in beside it.

By the end of summer, a thin green shoot had come up by the stick. It leaned toward the waves.

Questions

1. What was inside the green glass bottle?

_____

_____

2. What did the paper tell Imani to do?

_____

_____

3. What showed where the highest waves had stopped?

_____

_____

4. Why was the wet sand a bad place for the seed?

_____

_____

5. How did the high tide line help Imani solve the riddle?

_____

_____

6. Why did her father push a stick into the sand?

_____

_____

Words to know

riddle: a tricky question that has a clever answer
high tide: the time when the sea comes farthest up the shore
dunes: hills of sand piled up by the wind
driftwood: wood that the sea has washed up on the shore

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 Bottle That Held Only a Seed

Triangle group

On a gray morning after a storm, Imani went beachcombing with her father, and the sea had left heaps of seaweed, a lost flip-flop, and a green glass bottle half buried in the sand.

Imani shook the bottle, and something rattled. She pulled out the cork, and a single seed rolled into her palm, along with a curled slip of paper. The paper said, Plant me where the sea can see me but cannot touch me.

"Is that a riddle?" asked her father.

"It is an instruction," said Imani. "But the sea can see everything on a beach."

She sat on a log and thought about it. The sea touched the wet sand, so that was no good, but the sea also moved. At high tide it climbed the beach to a certain line and then slid back down, and she walked along the shore until she found that line. A long, crooked ribbon of dried seaweed and shells marked the place where the highest waves had stopped.

"Past that line, the waves cannot reach the seed," she said, "but the sea can still watch it."

She climbed up to the soft dunes, scooped a hole with a shell, and dropped in the seed. Her father pushed a driftwood stick in beside it.

By the end of summer, a thin green shoot had pushed up beside the stick, leaning toward the waves.

Questions

1. What was inside the green glass bottle?

_____

_____

2. What did the paper tell Imani to do?

_____

_____

3. What marked the place where the highest waves had stopped?

_____

_____

4. Why did Imani decide the wet sand was a bad place for the seed?

_____

_____

5. How did Imani use the high tide line to solve the riddle?

_____

_____

6. Why did her father push a driftwood stick into the sand?

_____

_____

Words to know

beachcombing: walking along a beach to look for things the sea has left
riddle: a tricky question that has a clever answer
high tide: the time when the sea comes farthest up the shore
dunes: hills of sand piled up by the wind
driftwood: wood that the sea has washed up on the shore

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 Bottle That Held Only a Seed

Square group

On a gray morning following a violent storm, Imani went beachcombing with her father, and the receding sea had abandoned heaps of tangled seaweed, a lost flip-flop, and a green glass bottle that lay half buried in the sand.

Imani shook the bottle, and something rattled inside. She tugged out the cork, and a single seed rolled into her palm, along with a curled slip of paper. The paper read, Plant me where the sea can see me but cannot touch me.

"Is that a riddle?" asked her father.

"It is an instruction," Imani replied. "But the sea can see everything on a beach."

She sat on a log and considered the problem carefully. The sea touched the wet sand, so that was out of the question, but the sea was also always moving. At high tide it climbed the beach to a particular line before sliding back down, and she wandered along the shore until she discovered where that line must be. A long, crooked ribbon of dried seaweed and shells marked the place where the highest waves had stopped.

"Beyond that line, the waves cannot reach the seed," she reasoned, "but the sea can still keep an eye on it."

She climbed to the soft dunes, scooped out a hole with a shell, and dropped in the seed. Her father pressed a stick of driftwood into the sand beside it so that they would remember the exact spot.

By the end of summer, a slender green shoot had pushed up beside the stick, leaning toward the waves.

Questions

1. What was inside the green glass bottle?

_____

_____

2. What instruction was written on the paper?

_____

_____

3. What marked the place where the highest waves had stopped?

_____

_____

4. Why did Imani rule out the wet sand as a planting spot?

_____

_____

5. How did the line left by the high tide help Imani solve the riddle?

_____

_____

6. Why did her father press a stick of driftwood into the sand?

_____

_____

Words to know

beachcombing: walking along a beach to look for things the sea has left
riddle: a tricky question that has a clever answer
high tide: the time when the sea comes farthest up the shore
dunes: hills of sand piled up by the wind
driftwood: wood that the sea has washed up on the shore

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 Bottle That Held Only a Seed

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

Circle: The Bottle That Held Only a Seed

Easier · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. One seed and a curled slip of paper.
2. Plant the seed where the sea can see it but cannot touch it.
3. A ribbon of dried seaweed and shells.
4. The sea touches the wet sand, and the note said the sea must not touch it.
5. She planted the seed past the line, where waves cannot reach it but the sea can see it.
6. To mark the spot so they could find the seed.

Triangle: The Bottle That Held Only a Seed

This passage · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. A single seed and a curled slip of paper.
2. Plant the seed where the sea can see it but cannot touch it.
3. A ribbon of dried seaweed and shells.
4. The sea touches the wet sand, and the note said the sea must not touch it.
5. She planted the seed past the line, where waves cannot reach but the sea can still see it.
6. To mark the spot so they could find the seed again.

Square: The Bottle That Held Only a Seed

Harder · 260 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. A single seed and a curled slip of paper.
2. To plant the seed where the sea can see it but cannot touch it.
3. A crooked ribbon of dried seaweed and shells.
4. The sea touches the wet sand, and the note said the sea must not touch the seed.
5. Beyond that line the waves cannot reach the seed, but the sea can still see it.
6. To mark the spot so they could find the seed later.