Name: _____ Date: _____

Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

Circle group

Captain Ferdie Fumble was ten years old. He was sure that every great explorer began with a bathtub. One sunny Saturday he dragged an old tub to the edge of Mill Pond. He tied his sister's red scarf to a broom for a sail. A soup ladle was his oar. His crew was a pile of socks with button eyes.

"All aboard!" Ferdie told the socks.

The tub slid into the water. It floated! Ferdie puffed out his chest. "Land ho!" he said. The only land in sight was the place he had left.

He paddled and paddled. The wind pushed the scarf. The tub spun in a slow circle. Ferdie did not mind. He sang a sea song, and the ducks quacked along.

Halfway across, his feet got wet. The tub had a small hole at the bottom. Water bubbled up like a tiny fountain.

"Abandon ship!" cried Ferdie. Then he remembered the pond was only knee deep. "Stay calm, crew," he said.

He pulled off one muddy sneaker and jammed it in the hole. The bubbling stopped. Ferdie sailed on, hopping on one foot. He bumped onto the far shore. His grandfather was waiting with a sandwich.

"Captain," said Grandpa, "your ship is fine, but a little shoeless."

Questions

1. What did Ferdie use for a sail?

_____

_____

2. Who was in Ferdie's crew?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong in the middle of the pond?

_____

_____

4. Why did Ferdie not abandon ship?

_____

_____

5. How did Ferdie stop the leak?

_____

_____

6. Why was land ho funny at the start?

_____

_____

Words to know

explorer: a person who travels to find new places
ladle: a large deep spoon for serving soup
crew: the people who work together on a ship
fountain: a spray of water shooting up
abandon: to leave something behind for good

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: _____

Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

Triangle group

Captain Ferdie Fumble was ten years old and sure that every great explorer began with a bathtub. So one sunny Saturday, he dragged the old tub from behind the shed down to the edge of Mill Pond. He tied his sister's red scarf to a broom handle for a sail and used a soup ladle for an oar. His crew was a pile of socks with button eyes.

"All aboard!" Ferdie called to the socks.

The tub slid into the water with a slap. It floated! Ferdie puffed out his chest and said, "Land ho!" even though the only land in sight was the very place he had left.

He paddled and paddled. The wind pushed the scarf, and the tub spun in a slow circle. Ferdie did not mind. He sang a sea song, and the ducks followed him, quacking along.

Halfway across the pond, he noticed that his feet were wet. The tub had a small hole at the bottom, right where the drain was supposed to be. Water bubbled up like a tiny fountain.

"Abandon ship!" cried Ferdie, then remembered the pond was only knee deep. "Never mind," he said. "Stay calm, crew."

He pulled off one muddy sneaker and jammed it into the hole. The bubbling stopped. Ferdie sailed on, hopping on one foot to keep the other dry, and he bumped gently onto the far shore, where his grandfather was waiting with a sandwich.

"Captain," said Grandpa, "I would say your ship is a fine one, if a little shoeless."

Questions

1. What did Ferdie use for a sail?

_____

_____

2. Who made up Ferdie's crew?

_____

_____

3. What problem happened in the middle of the pond?

_____

_____

4. Why did Ferdie decide not to abandon ship?

_____

_____

5. How did Ferdie stop the leak?

_____

_____

6. Why was it funny when Ferdie said land ho at the start?

_____

_____

Words to know

explorer: a person who travels to find new places
ladle: a large deep spoon for serving soup
crew: the people who work together on a ship
fountain: a spray of water shooting up
abandon: to leave something behind for good

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: _____

Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

Square group

Captain Ferdie Fumble was ten years old and entirely convinced that every great explorer had begun with a bathtub. So one sunny Saturday, he dragged the old tub from behind the shed all the way down to the edge of Mill Pond. He tied his sister's red scarf to a broom handle for a sail and borrowed a soup ladle to serve as an oar. His loyal crew consisted of a pile of socks with button eyes.

"All aboard!" Ferdie called to the socks.

The tub slid into the water with a slap, and to everyone's astonishment it floated. Ferdie puffed out his chest and cried, "Land ho!" even though the only land in sight was the very spot he had just left.

He paddled and paddled while the breeze nudged the scarf, and the tub drifted around in a slow circle. Ferdie did not mind in the least. He sang a sea song at the top of his lungs, and the ducks paddled behind him, quacking in harmony.

Halfway across the pond, he noticed that his feet were wet. The tub had a small hole in the bottom, right where the drain was supposed to be, and water was bubbling up like a miniature fountain.

"Abandon ship!" cried Ferdie, but then he remembered that the pond was only knee deep. "Never mind," he said. "Stay calm, crew."

He tugged off one muddy sneaker and jammed it into the hole, and the bubbling stopped at once. Ferdie sailed on, hopping on one foot to keep the other dry, and bumped gently onto the far shore, where his grandfather stood waiting with a sandwich.

"Captain," said Grandpa, "I would call your ship a fine one, if a little shoeless."

Questions

1. What did Ferdie use to make a sail for his tub?

_____

_____

2. Who made up Ferdie's loyal crew?

_____

_____

3. What trouble began halfway across the pond?

_____

_____

4. Why did Ferdie decide against abandoning ship?

_____

_____

5. How did Ferdie plug the hole?

_____

_____

6. What makes Ferdie's cry of land ho amusing?

_____

_____

Words to know

explorer: a person who travels to find new places
ladle: a large deep spoon for serving soup
crew: the people who work together on a ship
fountain: a spray of water shooting up
abandon: to leave something behind for good

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: Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

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

Circle: Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

Easier · 210 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. His sister's red scarf on a broom.
2. A pile of socks with button eyes.
3. Water bubbled up through a hole in the tub.
4. He remembered the pond was only knee deep.
5. He jammed his sneaker into the hole.
6. The only land in sight was where he started.

Triangle: Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

This passage · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. His sister's red scarf tied to a broom handle.
2. A pile of socks with button eyes.
3. Water bubbled up through a hole in the bottom of the tub.
4. He remembered the pond was only knee deep.
5. He jammed one of his sneakers into the hole.
6. The only land in sight was the place he had just left.

Square: Captain Fumble Sails a Bathtub

Harder · 288 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. His sister's red scarf tied to a broom handle.
2. A pile of socks with button eyes.
3. Water started bubbling up through a hole in the bottom of the tub.
4. He remembered the pond was only knee deep.
5. He jammed one of his muddy sneakers into it.
6. The only land in sight was the very place he had left.