Name: _____ Date: _____

Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

Circle group

It began with a tiny "hic" at the bakery. Dot Dobbins was buying muffins. She covered her mouth, but the hiccup hopped out of her and into the baker. "Hic!" said the baker. He passed it to the paperboy. The paperboy passed it to the mayor.

By noon the hiccup had visited half of Little Plum. It never stayed long. A policeman said "hic," and the cat on his shoulder said "mrow-hic." Even the town clock gave a tiny hiccup and chimed thirteen.

"We must catch it," said Dot. She loved a good problem. She took out a notebook and wrote down what she saw. The hiccup came after a surprise. It jumped to the next person when someone laughed.

"So it likes noise," Dot said. "And it likes company."

She stood on a crate in the square. She spoke quietly so nobody would laugh. "Please sit down. Sip cold water, slowly. Then hold still and count to twenty without a sound."

The square went silent. A bird chirped. The hiccup looked for someone to bounce to. It found only a quiet crowd. It gave a tiny sigh, floated up to the clock tower, and vanished.

The clock struck twelve at last. Dot closed her notebook and bought her muffins. They were a little cold. "Next time," she told the baker, "a hiccup must book a table."

Questions

1. Where did the hiccup first appear?

_____

_____

2. What was odd about the hiccup?

_____

_____

3. What did Dot notice about the hiccup?

_____

_____

4. Why did Dot ask for quiet?

_____

_____

5. How did the town get rid of the hiccup?

_____

_____

6. Why did the clock chime thirteen?

_____

_____

Words to know

mayor: the leader of a town or city
chimed: made a ringing sound, like a bell
square: an open space in the middle of a town
crate: a strong box made of wooden slats
vanished: disappeared suddenly

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: _____

Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

Triangle group

It began with a tiny "hic" at the bakery. Dot Dobbins, who was buying muffins, covered her mouth, but the hiccup had already hopped out of her and into the baker. "Hic!" said the baker. He passed it to the paperboy, and the paperboy passed it to the mayor.

By noon the hiccup had visited half the town of Little Plum. It never stayed in one person for long. A policeman said "hic" and the cat on his shoulder said "mrow-hic." Even the town clock gave a tiny hiccup and chimed thirteen.

"We must catch it," said Dot, who loved a good problem. She took out a notebook and began to take careful notes. The hiccup always came after a surprise. It jumped to the next person whenever someone laughed.

"So it likes noise," Dot decided. "And it likes company."

She stood on a crate in the town square and spoke quietly, so that nobody laughed. "Everyone, please sit down and sip some cold water, slowly. Then hold still and count to twenty without making a sound."

The square went silent. A bird chirped. The hiccup looked around for someone to bounce to, and found only a quiet crowd with nothing to laugh at. It gave a tiny sigh, floated up into the clock tower, and vanished.

The clock struck twelve properly at last. Dot closed her notebook and bought her muffins, which were slightly cold. "Next time," she told the baker, "a hiccup will have to book a table."

Questions

1. Where did the hiccup first appear?

_____

_____

2. What was odd about the hiccup?

_____

_____

3. What did Dot notice about when the hiccup jumped?

_____

_____

4. Why did Dot ask everyone to be quiet?

_____

_____

5. What did the town do to get rid of the hiccup?

_____

_____

6. Why did the town clock chime thirteen?

_____

_____

Words to know

mayor: the leader of a town or city
chimed: made a ringing sound, like a bell
square: an open space in the middle of a town
crate: a strong box made of wooden slats
vanished: disappeared suddenly

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: _____

Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

Square group

It all began with a tiny "hic" at the bakery. Dot Dobbins, who was buying muffins, clapped a hand over her mouth, but the hiccup had already hopped out of her and into the baker. "Hic!" said the baker, and he promptly passed it to the paperboy, who in turn passed it along to the mayor.

By noon, the hiccup had visited half the residents of Little Plum, and it never lingered in any one person for long. A policeman said "hic," and the cat perched on his shoulder said "mrow-hic." Even the town clock produced a tiny hiccup and chimed thirteen.

"We must catch it," declared Dot, who adored a good problem. She took out a notebook and began recording careful observations. The hiccup always arrived after a surprise, and it leaped to the next person whenever somebody laughed.

"So it likes noise," Dot concluded, "and it likes company."

She climbed onto a crate in the town square and spoke softly, so that nobody would be tempted to laugh. "Everyone, please sit down and sip some cold water, slowly. Then hold perfectly still and count to twenty without making a sound."

The square fell silent. A single bird chirped. The hiccup searched for someone to bounce to, but it found only a hushed crowd with nothing to laugh about. It gave a tiny sigh, drifted up into the clock tower, and vanished.

The clock struck twelve properly at last. Dot closed her notebook and finally bought her muffins, which had grown slightly cold. "Next time," she told the baker, "a hiccup will have to book a table."

Questions

1. Where did the wandering hiccup make its first appearance?

_____

_____

2. What was unusual about the way the hiccup behaved?

_____

_____

3. What pattern did Dot notice about when the hiccup jumped?

_____

_____

4. Why did Dot ask everyone to stay quiet?

_____

_____

5. What did the townspeople do to be rid of the hiccup?

_____

_____

6. Why did the town clock chime thirteen?

_____

_____

Words to know

mayor: the leader of a town or city
chimed: made a ringing sound, like a bell
square: an open space in the middle of a town
crate: a strong box made of wooden slats
vanished: disappeared suddenly

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: Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

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

Circle: Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

Easier · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. At the bakery, from Dot.
2. It hopped from person to person.
3. It jumped after a surprise or a laugh.
4. The hiccup liked noise and company, so a quiet crowd gave it nothing.
5. They sat, sipped water slowly, and stayed silent.
6. The hiccup was in it and added one extra chime.

Triangle: Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

This passage · 251 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. At the bakery, from Dot Dobbins.
2. It hopped from person to person and never stayed long.
3. It jumped to the next person after a surprise or a laugh.
4. The hiccup liked noise and company, so a silent crowd gave it nothing to bounce to.
5. They sat down, sipped cold water slowly, and stayed silent for twenty counts.
6. The hiccup had jumped into the clock and made it chime one extra time.

Square: Dot Dobbins and the Wandering Hiccup

Harder · 269 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. At the bakery, from Dot Dobbins.
2. It hopped from person to person and never stayed long.
3. It arrived after a surprise and leaped on whenever someone laughed.
4. The hiccup liked noise and company, so a hushed crowd gave it nothing to bounce to.
5. They sat down, sipped cold water slowly, and counted to twenty in silence.
6. The hiccup had jumped into the clock and caused one extra chime.