Name: _____ Date: _____

Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

Circle group

At the after-school club, Hana watched a boy named Dario stack twelve plastic cups and knock them flat again. He did it faster than a sneeze. Both of his hands moved at once, like two little birds.

Hana tried it. Her left hand grabbed three cups. Her right hand just sat there. The cups slid and wobbled and fell off the table. Dario was kind. "Everybody's hands start out lazy," he said.

For a week Hana practiced at the kitchen table. She stared at her fingers. She was sure they would behave if she watched them. They did not. Her tower fell every time.

On Friday, Dario had a new idea. "Stop looking at your hands," he said. "Look at the middle of the stack. Your eyes can see both sides at once."

Hana felt silly, but she tried. She looked at the center of the table. Her hands seemed to wake up. Left, right, left, right, the cups clicked into a pyramid. Then she swept them down in one smooth move.

The timer said she was slow. Hana did not care. For the first time, both hands had worked together, and nothing fell over.

Questions

1. What did Dario do that amazed Hana?

_____

_____

2. What was wrong with the way Hana first used her hands?

_____

_____

3. Where did Hana practice for a week?

_____

_____

4. What new advice did Dario give her?

_____

_____

5. Why did watching her fingers not help Hana?

_____

_____

6. Why did Hana not care that the timer said she was slow?

_____

_____

Words to know

pyramid: a shape that is wide at the bottom and narrow at the top

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: _____

Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

Triangle group

At the after-school club, Hana watched a boy named Dario build a tower of twelve plastic cups and knock it flat again in less time than it takes to sneeze. Both of his hands moved at once, like two little birds.

Hana tried it, but her left hand grabbed three cups while her right hand sat there doing nothing, and the cups slid, wobbled, and tumbled over the edge of the table. Dario was kind about it. "Everybody's hands start out lazy," he said.

For a week Hana practiced at the kitchen table, staring at her fingers and feeling certain that they would behave if she watched them closely. They did not behave, and her tower fell down every single time.

On Friday, Dario gave her a different idea. "Stop looking at your hands," he said. "Look at the middle of the stack. Your eyes can see both sides at once if you let them."

Hana felt silly, but she tried it anyway, letting her eyes rest on the center of the table until her hands seemed to wake up. Left, right, left, right, the cups clicked into a neat pyramid, and then she swept them back down in one smooth motion.

The timer on the table said she was slow. Hana did not care. For the first time, both hands had worked together, and nothing had fallen over.

Questions

1. What did Dario do that amazed Hana?

_____

_____

2. What was wrong with the way Hana first used her hands?

_____

_____

3. Where did Hana practice for a week?

_____

_____

4. What new advice did Dario give her?

_____

_____

5. Why did watching her fingers closely not help Hana?

_____

_____

6. Why did Hana not care that the timer said she was slow?

_____

_____

Words to know

tumbled: fell over in a messy way
pyramid: a shape that is wide at the bottom and narrow at the top
certain: completely sure
motion: a movement

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: _____

Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

Square group

At the after-school club, Hana watched a boy named Dario build a tower of twelve plastic cups and then flatten it again in less time than it takes to sneeze. Both of his hands moved at the same moment, like a pair of little birds darting back and forth.

Hana decided to try it herself, but her left hand snatched three cups while her right hand sat there doing absolutely nothing, and the cups slid, wobbled, and tumbled over the edge of the table. Dario was remarkably kind about it. "Everybody's hands start out lazy," he said with a shrug.

For an entire week Hana practiced at the kitchen table. She stared at her fingers, certain that they would behave if she watched them closely enough. They never did, and her tower collapsed every single time.

On Friday, Dario offered a different suggestion. "Stop looking at your hands," he told her. "Look at the middle of the stack instead. Your eyes can take in both sides at once if you let them."

Hana felt rather silly, but she tried it anyway, letting her gaze rest on the center of the table until her hands suddenly seemed to wake up. Left, right, left, right, the cups clicked into a neat pyramid, and then she swept them back down in one smooth, flowing motion.

The timer on the table said she was slow. Hana did not care in the least. For the first time, both of her hands had worked together, and nothing had fallen over.

Questions

1. What did Dario do that amazed Hana?

_____

_____

2. What was wrong with the way Hana first used her hands?

_____

_____

3. Where did Hana practice for an entire week?

_____

_____

4. What different suggestion did Dario give her?

_____

_____

5. Why did watching her fingers closely not help Hana?

_____

_____

6. Why did Hana not care that the timer said she was slow?

_____

_____

Words to know

tumbled: fell over in a messy way
pyramid: a shape that is wide at the bottom and narrow at the top
certain: completely sure
motion: a movement

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: Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

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

Circle: Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

Easier · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. He stacked twelve cups and knocked them down very fast.
2. Her left hand worked and her right hand did nothing.
3. At the kitchen table.
4. To look at the middle of the stack, not her hands.
5. Staring at one hand kept her from using both together.
6. She was proud that both hands finally worked together.

Triangle: Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

This passage · 230 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. He built a tower of twelve cups and knocked it down very fast.
2. Her left hand worked while her right hand did nothing.
3. At the kitchen table.
4. To look at the middle of the stack instead of her hands.
5. Staring at one hand kept her from using both together.
6. She was proud that both hands finally worked together.

Square: Hana and the Twelve-Cup Tower

Harder · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. He built a tower of twelve cups and flattened it very quickly.
2. Her left hand worked while her right hand did nothing.
3. At the kitchen table.
4. To look at the middle of the stack instead of at her hands.
5. Staring at one hand kept her from using both hands together.
6. She was proud that her hands finally worked together.