Name: _____ Date: _____

The Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

Circle group

Gus Lindqvist waited all year to open his shoe shop. At last the delivery truck came. Gus rolled out two hundred boxes. He opened the first box. It held a shiny brown shoe. He opened the second box. Another shiny brown shoe. By the tenth box, Gus saw the problem. Every shoe was a left shoe.

"I am left with a big problem," he groaned. "And I was right to worry."

He put a sign in the window. It said, "Shoes for Lefties." People came in. They looked at the boxes. Then they walked out. One man tried on a shoe and hopped on one foot. His friend laughed.

That afternoon, Gus looked at the shop across the street. It was Ruth's Right Shoes. It was quiet too. He crossed the road and knocked.

"Ruth," he said, "do you only have right shoes?"

Ruth's mouth fell open. "A mix-up at the factory," she said. "Two hundred of them!"

They both began to grin. They put their boxes together in the street and held a sale. Each person got a left shoe from Gus and a right shoe from Ruth. A week later the sign said "Left and Right Shoes." The line of shoppers went down Maple Street.

Questions

1. What was wrong with Gus's shoes?

_____

_____

2. What did Gus put in his window?

_____

_____

3. Why did people walk out of Gus's shop?

_____

_____

4. What did Gus find out when he visited Ruth?

_____

_____

5. How did they solve their problem?

_____

_____

6. What is the joke in left with a problem and right to worry?

_____

_____

Words to know

delivery: bringing something to a place
mix-up: a mistake where things get mixed wrongly
factory: a building where things are made
grin: to smile widely

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 Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

Triangle group

Gus Lindqvist had waited an entire year to open his shoe shop. When the enormous delivery truck finally arrived, he happily rolled out two hundred boxes. Then he opened the first one, and inside was a shiny brown shoe. He opened the second, and there was another shiny brown shoe. By the tenth box, Gus understood the problem: every single shoe was a left shoe.

"I am left with a big problem," he groaned. "And I was right to worry."

He put a sign in the window anyway, and it read, "Shoes for Lefties." Customers wandered in, looked at the boxes, and walked right back out again. One man tried on a shoe and then hopped around on one foot while his friend laughed loudly.

That afternoon, Gus noticed the shop across the street, which was called Ruth's Right Shoes and looked just as quiet as his own. He crossed the road and knocked on the door.

"Ruth," he said, "do you happen to have only right shoes?"

Ruth's mouth fell open. "A mix-up at the factory," she said. "Two hundred of them!"

The two shoe sellers looked at each other and began to grin. They pushed their boxes together in the middle of the street and held a tremendous sale, giving each customer a left shoe from Gus and a right shoe from Ruth. Some of the pairs did not match in color, but nobody minded. Within a week the sign above the doors read "Left and Right Shoes," and the line of shoppers went all the way down Maple Street.

Questions

1. What was wrong with the shoes Gus received?

_____

_____

2. What did Gus put in his shop window?

_____

_____

3. Why did customers walk out of Gus's shop?

_____

_____

4. What did Gus learn when he visited Ruth?

_____

_____

5. How did the two shop owners solve their problem?

_____

_____

6. What is the joke in Gus saying he was left with a problem and right to worry?

_____

_____

Words to know

delivery: bringing something to a place
customers: people who come to buy things
mix-up: a mistake where things get mixed wrongly
factory: a building where things are made
grin: to smile widely

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 Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

Square group

Gus Lindqvist had waited an entire year to open his shoe shop. When the enormous delivery truck finally rumbled up to the curb, he happily rolled out two hundred boxes. Then he opened the first one, and inside lay a shiny brown shoe. He opened the second, and there was another shiny brown shoe. By the tenth box, Gus finally understood the unfortunate problem. Every single shoe in the enormous shipment was a left shoe.

"I am left with a serious problem," he groaned miserably, "and I was right to worry."

He hung a sign in the window that read "Shoes for Lefties" anyway. Curious customers wandered in, glanced at the boxes, and promptly departed. One man tried on a shoe and then hopped around on one foot while his friend laughed.

That afternoon, Gus noticed the shop across the street, which was called Ruth's Right Shoes and looked just as quiet as his own. He crossed the road and knocked on her door.

"Ruth," he said, "by any chance, do you have only right shoes?"

Ruth's mouth fell open. "A mix-up at the factory," she replied. "Two hundred of them!"

The two shoe sellers looked at each other and began to grin. They pushed their boxes together in the middle of the street and held a grand sale, giving each customer a left from Gus and a right from Ruth. Some of the pairs did not match in color, but nobody objected in the slightest. Within a single week the sign above the doors read "Left and Right Shoes," and the line of shoppers stretched all the way down Maple Street.

Questions

1. What was wrong with the shoes that Gus received?

_____

_____

2. What sign did Gus hang in his shop window?

_____

_____

3. Why did customers leave Gus's shop without buying?

_____

_____

4. What did Gus discover when he visited Ruth's shop?

_____

_____

5. How did the two shop owners solve their shared problem?

_____

_____

6. What is the wordplay in Gus saying he was left with a problem and right to worry?

_____

_____

Words to know

delivery: bringing something to a place
customers: people who come to buy things
mix-up: a mistake where things get mixed wrongly
factory: a building where things are made
grin: to smile widely

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 Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

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

Circle: The Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

Easier · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. They were all left shoes.
2. A sign that said Shoes for Lefties.
3. They needed pairs, and he only had left shoes.
4. She had only right shoes.
5. They sold a left and a right shoe as a pair.
6. It plays on the words left and right, like the shoes.

Triangle: The Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

This passage · 263 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. Every one of them was a left shoe.
2. A sign that read Shoes for Lefties.
3. They needed a pair, and he only had left shoes.
4. Her shop had the same kind of mix-up, with only right shoes.
5. They put their boxes together and sold a left and a right as a pair.
6. It plays on the words left and right, which also describe the shoes.

Square: The Left-Shoe Shop on Maple Street

Harder · 273 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. Every single one of them was a left shoe.
2. A sign that read Shoes for Lefties.
3. They needed a pair of shoes, and he only had left ones.
4. She had the same kind of mix-up, with only right shoes.
5. They combined their boxes and sold one left and one right as a pair.
6. The words left and right also describe the shoes.