Name: _____ Date: _____

Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

Circle group

Dear Pim,

I am writing from my tunnel beneath the apple orchard. It is very dark here, and I like it that way. Today I found a smooth white stone and a worm as long as my paw. What did you find?

Your friend, Mabel the Mole

Dear Mabel,

Thank you for your letter! It reached me on the wind, still smelling of soil. I am writing from a telephone wire far above the fields. Today I found a river that shone like silver, and I flew right over a whole town. I wish you could see it.

Your friend, Pim the Swallow

Dear Pim,

I cannot see your river, but I believe you. Last week you told me the sky is bigger than any tunnel. I tried to imagine it and failed. Then I put my nose to the ground after rain and smelled a thousand things at once. Maybe the ground is big in a way you cannot see. I wish you could smell it.

Your friend, Mabel

Dear Mabel,

I have been thinking about your letter all week. I landed on the orchard grass today and breathed in as deeply as I could. You were right. I smelled apples, rain, and old leaves. Perhaps we each know a different half of the world, and our letters make a whole.

Your friend, Pim

Questions

1. Where does Mabel write her letters from?

_____

_____

2. What did Pim find that shone like silver?

_____

_____

3. What did Mabel smell after the rain?

_____

_____

4. What did Pim smell when he landed on the orchard grass?

_____

_____

5. Why does Mabel say she believes Pim even though she cannot see his river?

_____

_____

6. What does Pim mean when he says their letters make a whole?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchard: a field where fruit trees are grown
tunnel: a long underground passage
swallow: a small bird that flies fast and catches insects
imagine: to make a picture of something in your mind
perhaps: maybe, possibly

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: _____

Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

Triangle group

Dear Pim,

I am writing to you from my tunnel beneath the apple orchard, where it is very dark and where, I must admit, I prefer it that way. Today I discovered a perfectly smooth white stone and a worm that was nearly as long as my paw. What did you discover?

Your friend, Mabel the Mole

Dear Mabel,

Thank you for your letter! It reached me carried on the wind, still smelling faintly of damp soil. I am writing from a telephone wire far above the fields. Today I discovered a river that shone like silver ribbon, and I flew directly over a whole town on my way. I truly wish you could see it.

Your friend, Pim the Swallow

Dear Pim,

I cannot see your river, but I believe every word you say. Last week you told me that the sky is bigger than any tunnel, and I tried my hardest to imagine it, though I failed. Then, after the rain, I pressed my nose to the ground and smelled a thousand things all at once. Perhaps the ground is enormous in a way that you cannot see. I wish you could smell it.

Your friend, Mabel

Dear Mabel,

I have been thinking about your letter all week long. Today I landed on the orchard grass and breathed in as deeply as I possibly could. You were right. I smelled apples, rain, and old leaves. Perhaps each of us knows a different half of the world, and our letters join the halves together into a whole.

Your friend, Pim

Questions

1. Where is Mabel when she writes her letters?

_____

_____

2. What did Pim discover that shone like a silver ribbon?

_____

_____

3. What did Mabel smell after the rain?

_____

_____

4. What did Pim smell when he breathed in on the orchard grass?

_____

_____

5. Why does Mabel say she believes Pim even though she cannot see his river?

_____

_____

6. What does Pim mean when he says their letters join the halves into a whole?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchard: a field where fruit trees are grown
tunnel: a long underground passage
swallow: a small bird that flies fast and catches insects
imagine: to make a picture of something in your mind
perhaps: maybe, possibly

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: _____

Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

Square group

Dear Pim,

I am writing to you from my tunnel beneath the apple orchard, where it is exceedingly dark and where, I must confess, I prefer it that way. Today I discovered a perfectly smooth white stone and a worm that was nearly as long as my paw. What did you discover?

Your friend, Mabel the Mole

Dear Mabel,

Thank you for your wonderful letter! It reached me carried on the wind, still smelling faintly of damp soil. I am writing from a telephone wire far above the fields, and today I discovered a river that shone like a silver ribbon, then flew directly over an entire town on my way home. I truly wish that you could see it.

Your friend, Pim the Swallow

Dear Pim,

I cannot see your river, but I believe every word you say. Last week you told me that the sky is bigger than any tunnel, and although I tried my hardest to imagine it, I completely failed. Then, after the rain, I pressed my nose to the ground and smelled a thousand different things all at once. Perhaps the ground is enormous in a way that you cannot possibly see, and I wish you could smell it.

Your friend, Mabel

Dear Mabel,

I have been thinking about your remarkable letter all week long. Today I landed on the orchard grass and breathed in as deeply as I possibly could, and you were right. I smelled apples, rain, and old leaves. Perhaps each of us understands a different half of the world, and our letters join those halves together into a complete whole.

Your friend, Pim

Questions

1. Where is Mabel when she writes her letters?

_____

_____

2. What did Pim discover that shone like a silver ribbon?

_____

_____

3. What did Mabel smell after the rain?

_____

_____

4. What did Pim smell when he breathed in on the orchard grass?

_____

_____

5. Why does Mabel say she believes Pim even though she cannot see his river?

_____

_____

6. What does Pim mean when he says their letters join the halves into a whole?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchard: a field where fruit trees are grown
tunnel: a long underground passage
swallow: a small bird that flies fast and catches insects
imagine: to make a picture of something in your mind
perhaps: maybe, possibly

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: Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

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

Circle: Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

Easier · 225 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. From her tunnel beneath the apple orchard.
2. A river.
3. A thousand things at once.
4. Apples, rain, and old leaves.
5. She trusts her friend and knows the world holds things she has not seen.
6. Each friend knows part of the world, and sharing lets them know all of it.

Triangle: Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

This passage · 261 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. In her tunnel beneath the apple orchard.
2. A river.
3. A thousand things all at once.
4. Apples, rain, and old leaves.
5. She trusts her friend and understands that the world holds things she has never seen.
6. Each friend knows only part of the world, and by sharing they come to understand all of it.

Square: Letters Between a Mole and a Swallow

Harder · 272 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. In her tunnel beneath the apple orchard.
2. A river.
3. A thousand things all at once.
4. Apples, rain, and old leaves.
5. She trusts her friend and understands that the world holds things she has never seen.
6. Each friend knows only part of the world, and by sharing they come to understand all of it.