Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

Circle group

Four neighbors on Pudding Lane had nearly the same name. Mr. Fink lived at number one. Ms. Finch lived at number two. Mrs. Funk lived at number three. Old Mr. Fenk lived at number four. Otis was the new mail carrier. He read the names fast and made a mess.

On Monday, Mr. Fink got a package of bird seed. He had no birds. Ms. Finch had eleven birds. She got a letter from a dentist about a tooth she did not have. Mrs. Funk got a seed catalog. Mr. Fenk got a birthday card with a pony on it. It said, "Happy birthday, Fenny!"

"Who is Fenny?" Mr. Fenk asked the empty room.

On Tuesday everyone stood in the road with the wrong mail. They began to swap. "Here is your bird seed," said Mr. Fink to Ms. Finch. "Here is your dentist," said Mrs. Funk.

Otis felt bad. "I will do better," he said. That night he painted a tiny picture on each mailbox. A fish for Fink. A finch for Finch. A funny face for Funk. A fern for Fenk.

The mix-ups stopped. The neighbors met in the road each week. They called it Swap Day. They brought pudding, since the street was named for it.

Questions

1. Why did the neighbors get each other's mail?

_____

_____

2. What did Mr. Fink get on Monday?

_____

_____

3. Why was the bird seed no use to Mr. Fink?

_____

_____

4. How did the neighbors fix the mail on Tuesday?

_____

_____

5. How did Otis stop more mix-ups?

_____

_____

6. Why did Swap Day become a weekly habit?

_____

_____

Words to know

carrier: a person who brings the mail to homes
catalog: a booklet that shows things you can order
swap: to trade one thing for another

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 Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

Triangle group

Pudding Lane had four neighbors with nearly the same name. Mr. Fink lived at number one. Ms. Finch lived at number two. Mrs. Funk lived at number three, and old Mr. Fenk lived at number four. When Otis became the new mail carrier, he read the names very fast and made a mess.

On Monday, Mr. Fink opened a package of bird seed. He did not own a single bird. Ms. Finch, who owned eleven birds, received a letter from a dentist about a cavity in a tooth she did not have. Mrs. Funk got a seed catalog, and Mr. Fenk found a birthday card with a picture of a pony and a note that said, "Happy birthday, Fenny!"

"Who is Fenny?" Mr. Fenk asked the empty room.

Everyone marched outside on Tuesday. They stood in the road, holding the wrong mail, and they began to swap. "Here is your bird seed," said Mr. Fink to Ms. Finch. "Here is your dentist," said Mrs. Funk, handing over the letter.

Otis felt dreadful. "I will do better," he said. That night, he painted a tiny picture on every mailbox. A fish for Fink, a finch bird for Finch, a funny face for Funk, and a fern for Fenk.

The mix-ups stopped, and the neighbors began meeting on the road every week. They called it Swap Day, and they brought pudding, because the street had been named for it long ago.

Questions

1. Why did the four neighbors get each other's mail?

_____

_____

2. What did Mr. Fink receive on Monday?

_____

_____

3. Why was the bird seed useless to Mr. Fink?

_____

_____

4. How did the neighbors fix things on Tuesday?

_____

_____

5. How did Otis stop future mix-ups?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Swap Day became a weekly habit?

_____

_____

Words to know

carrier: a person who brings the mail to homes
cavity: a small hole in a tooth
catalog: a booklet that shows things you can order
swap: to trade one thing for another
dreadful: very bad

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 Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

Square group

Pudding Lane was home to four neighbors whose names were nearly identical. Mr. Fink lived at number one, Ms. Finch lived at number two, Mrs. Funk lived at number three, and old Mr. Fenk lived at number four. When Otis became the new mail carrier, he skimmed the names far too quickly and created an enormous mess.

On Monday, Mr. Fink opened a package of bird seed, even though he did not own a single bird. Ms. Finch, who owned eleven birds, received a letter from a dentist about a cavity in a tooth she did not have. Mrs. Funk was sent a seed catalog, and Mr. Fenk discovered a birthday card decorated with a pony and a note that said, "Happy birthday, Fenny!"

"Who is Fenny?" Mr. Fenk asked the empty room.

On Tuesday, everyone marched outside and stood in the road holding the wrong mail, and they began to trade. "Here is your bird seed," said Mr. Fink to Ms. Finch. "And here is your dentist," said Mrs. Funk, handing over the letter.

Otis felt dreadful about the whole affair. "I will do much better," he promised. That night, he painted a tiny picture on every mailbox: a fish for Fink, a finch for Finch, a funny face for Funk, and a fern for Fenk.

The mix-ups stopped for good, and the neighbors began gathering on the road every week. They called the gathering Swap Day, and they always brought pudding, because the street had been named for it long ago.

Questions

1. Why did the four neighbors keep receiving one another's mail?

_____

_____

2. What did Mr. Fink open on Monday?

_____

_____

3. Why was the bird seed useless to Mr. Fink?

_____

_____

4. How did the neighbors straighten out the mail on Tuesday?

_____

_____

5. What did Otis do to prevent future mix-ups?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Swap Day turned into a weekly tradition?

_____

_____

Words to know

carrier: a person who brings the mail to homes
cavity: a small hole in a tooth
catalog: a booklet that shows things you can order
swap: to trade one thing for another
dreadful: very bad

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 Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

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

Circle: The Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

Easier · 210 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. Their names were almost the same, and Otis read them fast.
2. A package of bird seed.
3. He had no birds.
4. They stood in the road and swapped it.
5. He painted a tiny picture on each mailbox.
6. The neighbors liked meeting and sharing pudding.

Triangle: The Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

This passage · 240 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. Their names were nearly the same, and Otis read them too fast.
2. A package of bird seed.
3. He did not own any birds.
4. They stood in the road and swapped the mail they had received.
5. He painted a small picture on each mailbox.
6. The neighbors enjoyed meeting and sharing pudding after the mix-up brought them together.

Square: The Mailbox Mix-Up on Pudding Lane

Harder · 254 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. Their names were nearly the same, and Otis read them too quickly.
2. A package of bird seed.
3. He did not own a single bird.
4. They stood in the road and traded the mail they had received.
5. He painted a tiny picture on every mailbox.
6. The neighbors enjoyed meeting and sharing pudding after the mix-up brought them together.