Name: _____ Date: _____

Mateo and the Stuck Kite

Circle group

On a breezy Saturday, Mateo took his new red kite to the park. The wind was just right. The kite climbed higher and higher. It looked as small as a ladybug. Mateo laughed and let out more string.

Then a strong gust of wind swept across the field. The kite swooped to the side. It dipped and landed in the top of a very tall oak tree. Mateo tugged on the string, but the kite only wiggled. He tugged again, and the string pulled tight. The kite was stuck.

Mateo felt sick. He had saved his allowance for two months to buy that kite. He thought about climbing the tree, but the first branch was far above his head. He knew it was not safe to climb a tall tree alone.

His neighbor, Mr. Ortiz, was walking his dog nearby. Mateo ran to him and told him the problem. Mr. Ortiz looked at the tree. "I have a long pole with a hook at home," he said. "I use it for my apple trees. Wait here. I will get it."

Ten minutes later, Mr. Ortiz came back. He lifted the pole and caught the string. He pulled gently until the kite slid free. It floated down into Mateo's hands without a tear.

"Thank you!" said Mateo. This time he flew the kite in the middle of the open field, far from every tree.

Questions

1. Where did Mateo's kite get stuck?

_____

_____

2. How long had Mateo saved his allowance for the kite?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mateo not climb the tree himself?

_____

_____

4. How did Mr. Ortiz get the kite down?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mateo fly the kite in the open field the second time?

_____

_____

Words to know

gust: a sudden strong rush of wind
swooped: dropped down quickly through the air
allowance: money a child gets regularly to spend or save
neighbor: a person who lives close to you

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: _____

Mateo and the Stuck Kite

Triangle group

On a breezy Saturday, Mateo took his new red kite to the park, where the wind was perfect. The kite climbed higher and higher until it looked as small as a ladybug, and Mateo laughed as he let out more string.

Then a strong gust swept across the field. The kite swooped sideways, dipped, and landed in the top of a very tall oak tree. Mateo tugged on the string, but the kite only wiggled, and when he tugged again, the string snapped tight. The kite was stuck.

Mateo felt his stomach sink. He had saved his allowance for two months to buy that kite. He thought about climbing the tree, but the first branch was far above his head. He also knew that climbing a tall tree alone was not safe.

His neighbor, Mr. Ortiz, was walking his dog nearby. Mateo ran over and explained the problem. Mr. Ortiz studied the tree and said, "I have a long pole with a hook at home that I use for the apple trees. Wait here, and I will get it."

Ten minutes later, Mr. Ortiz returned. He lifted the pole, caught the string, and gently pulled until the kite slid free. It floated down into Mateo's hands without a single tear.

"Thank you!" said Mateo. This time he flew the kite in the middle of the open field, far from every tree.

Questions

1. Where did Mateo's kite get stuck?

_____

_____

2. How long had Mateo saved his allowance for the kite?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mateo not climb the tree himself?

_____

_____

4. How did Mr. Ortiz get the kite down?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mateo fly the kite in the open field the second time?

_____

_____

Words to know

gust: a sudden strong rush of wind
swooped: dropped down quickly through the air
allowance: money a child gets regularly to spend or save
neighbor: a person who lives close to you
explained: told in a way that is easy to understand

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: _____

Mateo and the Stuck Kite

Square group

On a breezy Saturday, Mateo carried his brand-new red kite to the park. The wind was ideal. The kite climbed higher and higher until it appeared as tiny as a ladybug, and Mateo laughed as he let out more string.

Suddenly a powerful gust swept across the field. The kite swooped sideways, dipped, and came to rest in the uppermost branches of an enormous oak tree. Mateo tugged on the string, but the kite merely wiggled. He tugged again, and the string pulled taut. The kite was hopelessly stuck.

Mateo felt his stomach sink. He had saved his allowance for two entire months to buy that kite. He considered climbing the tree, but the lowest branch was far above his head, and he understood that climbing a tall tree by himself was not safe.

His neighbor, Mr. Ortiz, happened to be walking his dog nearby. Mateo hurried over and described the problem. Mr. Ortiz examined the tree carefully and said, "I own a long pole with a hook on the end that I use for my apple trees. Wait here, and I will fetch it."

Ten minutes later, Mr. Ortiz returned. He raised the pole, hooked the string, and gently drew it down until the kite slid free. It floated into Mateo's hands without a single tear.

"Thank you!" said Mateo. This time he flew the kite in the middle of the open field, far away from every tree.

Questions

1. Where did Mateo's kite come to rest?

_____

_____

2. How long had Mateo saved his allowance for the kite?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mateo not climb the tree by himself?

_____

_____

4. How did Mr. Ortiz bring the kite down?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mateo fly the kite in the open field the second time?

_____

_____

Words to know

gust: a sudden strong rush of wind
swooped: dropped down quickly through the air
allowance: money a child gets regularly to spend or save
neighbor: a person who lives close to you

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: Mateo and the Stuck Kite

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

Circle: Mateo and the Stuck Kite

Easier · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. In the top of a very tall oak tree.
2. Two months.
3. The first branch was too high, and it was not safe to climb a tall tree alone.
4. He used a long pole with a hook to catch the string and pull the kite free.
5. He wanted to stay far from trees so it would not get stuck again.

Triangle: Mateo and the Stuck Kite

This passage · 231 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. In the top of a very tall oak tree.
2. Two months.
3. The first branch was too high, and climbing a tall tree alone was not safe.
4. He used a long pole with a hook to catch the string and pull the kite free.
5. He wanted to keep it far from trees so it would not get stuck again.

Square: Mateo and the Stuck Kite

Harder · 240 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. In the uppermost branches of an enormous oak tree.
2. Two entire months.
3. The lowest branch was too high, and climbing a tall tree alone was not safe.
4. He used a long pole with a hook to catch the string and draw the kite down.
5. He wanted to stay far from trees so it would not get stuck again.