Name: _____ Date: _____

My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

Circle group

For six months, Imani had waited for the new baby to talk. She hoped his first word would be her name.

Everyone in the house had a guess. Dad was sure it would be "Dada." He said it to the baby forty times a day. Mom thought it would be "more," since the baby loved food. Imani just practiced. She sat by the baby's blanket and said, "Ee-ma-nee. Ee-ma-nee," until her throat felt dry.

One morning, the baby was waving a spoon. He looked right at Imani and shouted, "Gigi!"

Imani froze. "That's not my name," she said.

"It might be," said Mom. "Babies can't say everything yet. Say it again, sweetheart."

"Gigi!" he said. He pointed at Imani and bounced in his chair.

Dad laughed so hard that he put down his coffee. Imani's sad feeling came loose, like a knot coming undone. The baby did not know the word for sister yet. He made up his own, and it was for her.

By the end of the week, the whole family called her Gigi. The baby learned "Dada" at last, and "more" the next month. But in that house, Imani's name stayed Gigi for years.

Questions

1. What did Imani hope the baby's first word would be?

_____

_____

2. What did Dad think the first word would be?

_____

_____

3. What did the baby shout while waving a spoon?

_____

_____

4. How long did the family call Imani by the new name?

_____

_____

5. Why did Imani first feel sad?

_____

_____

6. Why did her sad feeling come loose?

_____

_____

Words to know

froze: stopped moving suddenly

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: _____

My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

Triangle group

For six months, Imani had waited for the new baby to say something. She hoped, quietly and fiercely, that his first word would be her name.

Everyone in the house had a theory. Dad was sure it would be "Dada," because Dad said it to the baby forty times a day. Mom thought it would be "more," since the baby loved food. Imani just practiced. She sat beside the baby's blanket and said, "Ee-ma-nee. Ee-ma-nee," until her throat felt dry.

One morning, the baby was waving a spoon around when he looked straight at Imani and shouted, "Gigi!"

Imani froze. "That isn't my name," she said.

"It might be," said Mom. "Babies can't say everything yet. Say it again, sweetheart."

"Gigi!" he said, pointing at Imani and bouncing in his chair.

Dad was laughing so hard that he had to put down his coffee. Imani felt her disappointment loosen, like a knot coming undone. The baby did not know the word for sister yet. He had made up his own, and it was meant for her.

By the end of the week, the whole family called her Gigi. The baby learned to say "Dada" at last, and "more" by the next month, but Imani's name stayed Gigi in that house for years.

Questions

1. What did Imani hope the baby's first word would be?

_____

_____

2. What did Dad think the first word would be?

_____

_____

3. What did the baby shout while waving a spoon?

_____

_____

4. How long did the family keep calling Imani by the new name?

_____

_____

5. Why did Imani first feel disappointed?

_____

_____

6. Why did her disappointment loosen?

_____

_____

Words to know

fiercely: very strongly and with great feeling
theory: a guess about why or how something happens
froze: stopped moving suddenly
disappointment: the sad feeling when you do not get what you hoped for

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: _____

My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

Square group

For six long months, Imani had waited for the new baby to say something, and she hoped, quietly and fiercely, that his first word would be her name.

Everyone in the household had a theory. Dad was convinced it would be "Dada," because he said it to the baby forty times a day. Mom suspected it would be "more," since the baby adored his food. Imani simply practiced. She sat beside the baby's blanket and repeated, "Ee-ma-nee. Ee-ma-nee," until her throat felt dry and scratchy.

One morning, while the baby was waving a spoon around, he looked straight at Imani and shouted, "Gigi!"

Imani froze in place. "That isn't my name," she said.

"It might be," said Mom. "Babies can't pronounce everything yet. Say it again, sweetheart."

"Gigi!" he cried, pointing at Imani and bouncing in his high chair.

Dad was laughing so hard that he had to set his coffee down. Imani felt her disappointment loosen, like a stubborn knot finally coming undone. The baby did not know the word for sister yet. He had invented his own, and it was meant for her alone.

By the end of the week, the entire family called her Gigi. The baby eventually learned to say "Dada," and "more" the following month, but in that house, Imani's name remained Gigi for years and years.

Questions

1. What did Imani quietly hope the baby's first word would be?

_____

_____

2. What did Dad believe the baby's first word would be?

_____

_____

3. What did the baby shout while he was waving a spoon around?

_____

_____

4. For how long did the family keep calling Imani by the new name?

_____

_____

5. Why was Imani disappointed at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did her disappointment loosen?

_____

_____

Words to know

fiercely: very strongly and with great feeling
theory: a guess about why or how something happens
froze: stopped moving suddenly
disappointment: the sad feeling when you do not get what you hoped for

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: My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

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

Circle: My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

Easier · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Her name.
2. Dada.
3. Gigi.
4. For years.
5. She wanted the baby to say her real name, and Gigi did not sound like it.
6. She saw that the baby had made up a special name for her.

Triangle: My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

This passage · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. Her own name.
2. Dada.
3. Gigi.
4. For years.
5. She wanted the baby to say her real name, and Gigi did not sound like it.
6. She realized the baby had invented a special name just for her.

Square: My Brother's First Word Was Gigi

Harder · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Her own name.
2. Dada.
3. Gigi.
4. For years and years.
5. She wanted the baby to say her real name, and Gigi did not sound like it.
6. She understood that the baby had invented a special name just for her.