Name: _____ Date: _____

Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

Circle group

Noor did not want to be in the school play. She wanted to be the one nobody saw. So she signed up to pull the curtain rope. It was the quietest job in the show.

The rope was thick and scratchy and heavy. Noor's job was simple. When the narrator said "and the story began," she had to open the curtain smoothly, not a second too soon.

At the first practice, she yanked the curtain open too early. The actors were still looking for their places. At the second practice, she waited too long. The narrator had to say his line twice. Mr. Alder, the director, sighed. "It's Cue Seven, Noor. It's a small thing. But the whole play depends on it."

That night Noor lay awake. Then she had an idea. The next day she brought bright tape. She put one strip on the rope where her hand should be when the curtain was closed. She put another strip where her hand should be when it was open. She whispered the narrator's words to herself so she would know when to pull.

On opening night, the narrator said, "and the story began." Noor pulled hand over hand from one strip to the other. The curtain swept open like a wave.

Nobody noticed her. And that, she thought, meant she had done it right.

Questions

1. Why did Noor sign up for the curtain rope?

_____

_____

2. What words were Noor's signal to open the curtain?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong at the second practice?

_____

_____

4. What did Noor put on the rope to help her?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mr. Alder say the whole play depends on Cue Seven?

_____

_____

6. Why did Noor feel she did it right when nobody noticed her?

_____

_____

Words to know

cue: a signal that tells you when to act
narrator: the person who tells the story to the audience
director: the person who guides everyone putting on a play

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: _____

Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

Triangle group

Noor did not want to be in the school play. She wanted to be the person nobody saw. So she signed up for the curtain rope, the quietest job in the whole show.

The rope was thick, scratchy, and surprisingly heavy. Noor's job was simple. When the narrator said the words "and the story began," she had to open the curtain smoothly and not a second too soon.

At the first rehearsal, she yanked the curtain open too early, and the actors were still hunting for their places. At the second rehearsal, she waited too long, and the narrator had to say his line twice. Mr. Alder, the director, sighed. "It's Cue Seven, Noor. It only matters a little. Everything depends on it."

That night Noor lay awake. Then she had an idea. The next day she brought a roll of bright tape. She stuck a strip on the rope, exactly where her hand should be when the curtain was closed, and another strip where her hand should be when it was open. Then she whispered the narrator's lines to herself, so she would know when to start pulling.

On opening night, the narrator said, "and the story began." Noor pulled hand over hand, from one tape strip to the other, and the curtain swept apart like a wave.

Nobody noticed her. And that, she thought, meant she had done it perfectly.

Questions

1. Why did Noor sign up for the curtain rope?

_____

_____

2. What words were Noor's signal to open the curtain?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong at the second rehearsal?

_____

_____

4. What did Noor put on the rope to help herself?

_____

5. Why did Mr. Alder say that everything depends on Cue Seven?

6. Why did Noor feel she had done the job perfectly when nobody noticed her?

Words to know

rehearsal: a practice before the real show
cue: a signal that tells you when to act
narrator: the person who tells the story to the audience
director: the person who guides everyone putting on a play

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: _____

Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

Square group

Noor did not want to appear in the school play. She wanted to be the one person whom nobody noticed, so she signed up for the curtain rope, which was the quietest job in the entire production.

The rope was thick, scratchy, and surprisingly heavy. Her responsibility was simple in theory. When the narrator spoke the words "and the story began," she had to open the curtain smoothly and not a second too soon.

At the first rehearsal, she yanked the curtain open far too early, while the actors were still hunting for their places. At the second rehearsal, she hesitated too long, and the narrator was forced to repeat his line. Mr. Alder, the director, sighed. "It's Cue Seven, Noor. It may seem like a small matter, but everything else depends on it."

That night Noor lay awake, and then an idea occurred to her. The next day she brought a roll of bright tape. She stuck one strip on the rope exactly where her hand should be when the curtain was closed, and another strip where her hand should be when it was fully open. Then she whispered the narrator's lines to herself over and over, so that she would recognize the moment to start pulling.

On opening night, the narrator said, "and the story began." Noor pulled hand over hand, from one strip of tape to the other, and the curtain swept apart like a wave.

Nobody noticed her at all. And that, she thought, meant she had done the job perfectly.

Questions

1. Why did Noor sign up for the curtain rope?

_____

_____

2. What words were Noor's signal to open the curtain?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong at the second rehearsal?

_____

_____

4. What did Noor stick on the rope to help herself?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mr. Alder say that everything depends on Cue Seven?

_____

_____

6. Why did Noor feel she had done the job perfectly when nobody noticed her?

_____

_____

Words to know

rehearsal: a practice before the real show
cue: a signal that tells you when to act
narrator: the person who tells the story to the audience
director: the person who guides everyone putting on a play

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: Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

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

Circle: Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

Easier · 224 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. She wanted a quiet job where nobody would see her.
2. The narrator saying "and the story began."
3. She waited too long, so the narrator said his line twice.
4. Two strips of bright tape.
5. The play cannot start well unless the curtain opens on time.
6. A smooth curtain gets no attention, and that is what she wanted.

Triangle: Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

This passage · 232 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. She wanted a quiet job where nobody would see her.
2. The narrator saying "and the story began."
3. She waited too long, so the narrator had to repeat his line.
4. Two strips of bright tape.
5. The whole play cannot start properly unless the curtain opens on time.
6. A smooth curtain draws no attention, which is what she wanted.

Square: Noor Pulls the Curtain on Cue Seven

Harder · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. She wanted a quiet job where nobody would notice her.
2. The narrator saying "and the story began."
3. She hesitated too long, so the narrator had to repeat his line.
4. Two strips of bright tape.
5. The play cannot begin properly unless the curtain opens on time.
6. A smooth curtain draws no attention, which was exactly what she wanted.