Name: _____ Date: _____

The Quilt Square With Red Thread

Circle group

Every square of Grandma Nell's old quilt had a leaf on it, but one. In the third row, a gray square had no leaf. It had a wandering line of tiny stitches and one red knot in the corner.

Tavia sat on the sofa under that quilt all rainy afternoon. She traced the line with her finger. It bent left, then right, and then curled like a hook. "Gran," she said, "I think this square is a drawing."

Grandma Nell said her grandmother, Aunt Bess, had sewn the quilt long ago. "She never wasted a stitch," she said. "If it is odd, it is on purpose."

Tavia got a pencil and paper and copied the line. The long wavy part was the creek behind the house. The hook was the bend by the willow tree. The red knot was just past the bend, near the old stone wall.

When the rain stopped, they went out with a trowel. Under a flat stone by the wall was a small tin wrapped in oilcloth. Inside were seed packets. Each one had the name of a flower in faded ink.

"Aunt Bess's garden," said Grandma Nell softly. "She saved it for us."

In spring, Tavia planted a row of the flowers by the creek.

Questions

1. What was different about the gray square?

_____

_____

2. Who sewed the quilt?

_____

_____

3. What did the long wavy line show?

_____

_____

4. What was under the flat stone?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandma Nell say an odd square was on purpose?

_____

_____

6. What did the red knot mark?

_____

_____

Words to know

quilt: a bed cover made of many pieces of cloth sewn together
stitches: small loops of thread sewn through cloth
knot: a tight tangle of thread or rope
trowel: a small hand shovel for digging
oilcloth: a cloth coated so that water cannot soak through

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 Quilt Square With Red Thread

Triangle group

Every square of Grandma Nell's old quilt showed a leaf, except for one. In the third row, a gray square had no leaf at all, and it held only a wandering line of tiny stitches and a single red knot in the corner.

Tavia had spent the whole rainy afternoon on the sofa under that quilt, and she traced the line with her finger. It bent left, then right, and then curled like a hook. "Gran," she said, "I think this square is a drawing of something."

Grandma Nell said that her own grandmother, Aunt Bess, had sewn the quilt long ago. "She never wasted a stitch," she said. "If it is odd, it is on purpose."

Tavia fetched a pencil and paper and copied the line. The long wavy part had to be the creek behind the house, and the hook was the bend where the creek turned past the willow tree. The red knot sat just beyond the bend, close to the old stone wall.

When the rain stopped, they went out with a trowel. Under a flat stone by the wall, wrapped in oilcloth, lay a small tin. Inside were seed packets, each one labeled in faded ink with the name of a flower.

"Aunt Bess's garden," said Grandma Nell softly. "She saved it for us."

In spring, Tavia planted a row of the flowers by the creek.

Questions

1. What was different about the gray square in the third row?

_____

_____

2. Who sewed the quilt?

_____

_____

3. What did the long wavy line in the stitching stand for?

_____

_____

4. What did Tavia and her grandmother find under the flat stone?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandma Nell say that if the square was odd, it was on purpose?

_____

_____

6. What did the red knot mark?

_____

_____

Words to know

quilt: a bed cover made of many pieces of cloth sewn together
stitches: small loops of thread sewn through cloth
knot: a tight tangle of thread or rope
trowel: a small hand shovel for digging
oilcloth: a cloth coated so that water cannot soak through

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 Quilt Square With Red Thread

Square group

Every square of Grandma Nell's venerable old quilt displayed a leaf, with one exception. In the third row, a gray square had no leaf whatsoever. It held only a meandering line of tiny stitches and a single red knot tucked into one corner.

Tavia had spent the entire rainy afternoon on the sofa beneath that quilt. She traced the winding line with her finger. It bent left, then right, and finally curled around like a hook. "Gran," she said, "I think this square is a drawing of something."

Grandma Nell explained that her own grandmother, Aunt Bess, had sewn the quilt many years earlier. "She never wasted a single stitch," she said. "If something is odd, it is odd on purpose."

Tavia fetched a pencil and some paper and carefully copied the line. The long wavy stretch had to be the creek behind the house. The hook was the bend where the creek curved past the willow tree. The red knot sat just beyond the bend, close to the crumbling stone wall.

As soon as the rain stopped, they went outside with a trowel. Beneath a flat stone by the wall, wrapped in oilcloth, lay a small tin. Inside were seed packets, each one labeled in faded ink with the name of a flower.

"Aunt Bess's garden," said Grandma Nell softly. "She saved it for us."

When spring arrived, Tavia planted a row of those flowers along the creek.

Questions

1. What set the gray square in the third row apart from the others?

_____

_____

2. Who had sewn the quilt many years earlier?

_____

_____

3. What did the long wavy stretch of stitching represent?

_____

_____

4. What did Tavia and Grandma Nell discover beneath the flat stone?

_____

_____

5. Why did Grandma Nell believe that an odd square was odd on purpose?

_____

_____

6. What did the red knot indicate?

_____

_____

Words to know

quilt: a bed cover made of many pieces of cloth sewn together
stitches: small loops of thread sewn through cloth
knot: a tight tangle of thread or rope
trowel: a small hand shovel for digging
oilcloth: a cloth coated so that water cannot soak through

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 Quilt Square With Red Thread

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

Circle: The Quilt Square With Red Thread

Easier · 211 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. It had no leaf, only a wandering line of stitches and a red knot.
2. Aunt Bess, Grandma Nell's grandmother.
3. The creek behind the house.
4. A small tin of seed packets wrapped in oilcloth.
5. Aunt Bess never wasted a stitch, so the odd square had a reason.
6. The place by the stone wall where the tin was hidden.

Triangle: The Quilt Square With Red Thread

This passage · 231 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. It had no leaf, only a wandering line of tiny stitches and a red knot.
2. Grandma Nell's grandmother, Aunt Bess.
3. The creek behind the house.
4. A small tin of seed packets wrapped in oilcloth.
5. Aunt Bess never wasted a stitch, so the odd square must have a reason.
6. The spot near the stone wall where Aunt Bess hid the tin.

Square: The Quilt Square With Red Thread

Harder · 239 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. It had no leaf, only a meandering line of stitches and a red knot.
2. Aunt Bess, Grandma Nell's grandmother.
3. The creek behind the house.
4. A small tin of seed packets wrapped in oilcloth.
5. Aunt Bess never wasted a stitch, so the unusual square must have a reason.
6. The spot near the stone wall where the tin was buried.