Name: _____ Date: _____

The Afternoon That Got Misplaced

Circle group

One Wednesday, the town of Lowmill went straight from lunch to evening. The clocks said noon, and then, with a small click, they said six. Nobody had played games or read in the sun. Nobody had finished a single chore.

"The afternoon is missing," said the mayor. She looked about as if it might be under a chair.

Odalys had a clever habit of noticing small things. She noticed that every shadow in town was pointing the same way, and it was not the way shadows should point at that hour. They all stretched toward the old orchard on the hill.

She followed them up the path with her dog. In the orchard, the air had turned thick and golden. A soft, drowsy haze sat between the apple trees. It was the lost afternoon, curled up like a cat.

"Why did you leave?" Odalys asked.

The haze yawned. "Nobody ever uses me," it said. "They rush through me. They hurry from lunch to dinner and call me too long and too boring."

Odalys thought about it. "We forgot how to enjoy you," she said. "If you come back, I will promise you something. Every day, we will leave a little time for doing nothing at all."

The haze stretched and rose. It rolled down the hill like warm honey, and the clocks in Lowmill ticked and began again at one.

Questions

1. What strange thing happened in Lowmill on Wednesday?

_____

_____

2. What small thing did Odalys notice about the shadows?

_____

_____

3. What did the afternoon look like when she found it?

_____

_____

4. Why had the afternoon left?

_____

_____

5. What did Odalys promise the afternoon?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest about the way people use their time?

_____

_____

Words to know

mayor: the person who leads a town or city
chore: a small job that has to be done
orchard: a place where fruit trees are grown
drowsy: sleepy and slow
haze: a thin cloud that makes the air look soft and hazy

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 Afternoon That Got Misplaced

Triangle group

One Wednesday, the town of Lowmill leaped straight from lunch to evening. The clocks said noon, and then, with a small click, they said six. Nobody had played a single game or read a book in the sunshine. Nobody had finished even one chore.

"The afternoon is missing," announced the mayor. She peered about the room as if it might be hiding beneath a chair.

Odalys had a clever habit of noticing small details. She observed that every shadow in town was pointing in the same direction, and it was not the direction shadows should point at that hour. They all stretched toward the old orchard on the hill.

She followed them up the winding path with her dog trotting beside her. In the orchard, the air had turned thick and golden. A soft, drowsy haze lingered between the apple trees. It was the lost afternoon, curled up like a contented cat.

"Why did you leave?" Odalys asked.

The haze yawned enormously. "Nobody ever makes use of me," it said. "They rush right through me. They hurry from lunch to dinner and complain that I am too long and too dull."

Odalys considered this seriously. "We forgot how to enjoy you," she said. "If you come home, I will make you a promise. Every day, we will leave a little time for doing nothing at all."

The haze stretched and rose, rolling down the hill like warm honey, and the clocks in Lowmill began ticking again at one.

Questions

1. What strange thing happened in Lowmill on Wednesday?

_____

_____

2. What small detail did Odalys observe about the shadows?

_____

_____

3. What did the lost afternoon look like when she found it?

_____

_____

4. Why had the afternoon gone away?

_____

_____

5. What did Odalys promise the afternoon?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest about the way people spend their time?

_____

_____

Words to know

mayor: the person who leads a town or city
chore: a small job that has to be done
orchard: a place where fruit trees are grown
drowsy: sleepy and slow
haze: a thin cloud that makes the air look soft and hazy

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 Afternoon That Got Misplaced

Square group

One Wednesday, the town of Lowmill leaped straight from lunch to evening. The clocks read noon, and then, with a small click, they read six. Nobody had played a single game or read a book in the sunshine, and nobody had completed even one chore.

"The afternoon is missing," announced the mayor, peering around the room as if it might be hiding beneath a chair.

Odalys had a clever habit of noticing small details. She observed that every shadow in town was pointing in the same direction, which was not the direction that shadows should point at that hour. They all stretched toward the old orchard on the hill.

She followed them up the winding path with her dog trotting beside her. In the orchard, the air had turned thick and golden, and a soft, drowsy haze lingered between the apple trees. It was the lost afternoon, curled up like a contented cat.

"Why did you leave?" Odalys asked.

The haze yawned enormously. "Nobody ever makes use of me," it said. "They rush right through me, hurrying from lunch to dinner, and they complain that I am too long and too dull."

Odalys considered this seriously. "We forgot how to enjoy you," she admitted. "If you come home, I will make you a promise. Every day, we will leave a little time for doing nothing at all."

The haze stretched and rose, rolling down the hill like warm honey, and the clocks in Lowmill began ticking again at one.

Questions

1. What strange thing happened in Lowmill on Wednesday?

_____

_____

2. What small detail did Odalys observe about the shadows?

_____

_____

3. What did the lost afternoon look like when she found it?

_____

_____

4. Why had the afternoon gone away?

_____

_____

5. What did Odalys promise the afternoon?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest about the way people spend their time?

_____

_____

Words to know

mayor: the person who leads a town or city
chore: a small job that has to be done
orchard: a place where fruit trees are grown
drowsy: sleepy and slow
haze: a thin cloud that makes the air look soft and hazy

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 Afternoon That Got Misplaced

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

Circle: The Afternoon That Got Misplaced

Easier · 230 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. The town went straight from lunch to evening, and the afternoon was missing.
2. They all pointed toward the old orchard on the hill.
3. A soft, golden haze curled up between the apple trees.
4. People rushed through it and called it too long and boring.
5. That every day the town would leave a little time for doing nothing.
6. People can miss the best parts of a day when they rush.

Triangle: The Afternoon That Got Misplaced

This passage · 248 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. The town leaped from lunch to evening and the afternoon went missing.
2. They all pointed toward the old orchard on the hill.
3. A soft, golden haze curled up between the apple trees.
4. People rushed through it and complained that it was too long and dull.
5. That every day the town would leave a little time for doing nothing.
6. People can miss the best parts of a day when they hurry.

Square: The Afternoon That Got Misplaced

Harder · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. The town leaped from lunch to evening and the afternoon went missing.
2. They all pointed toward the old orchard on the hill.
3. A soft, golden haze curled up between the apple trees.
4. People rushed through it and complained that it was too long and dull.
5. That every day the town would leave a little time for doing nothing.
6. People can miss the best parts of a day when they hurry.