Name: _____ Date: _____

The Borrowed Bicycle Bell

Circle group

Marguerite's bike bell was the loudest on the block. It had a bright, silver ring that echoed down the street. She had saved her allowance for three months to buy it. So when her friend Hiro asked to borrow it for the weekend parade, she paused.

"I'll be careful," Hiro said. "I'll treat it like glass."

But on Sunday, a pothole bounced his bike. The bell flew off and hit the curb. When Hiro picked it up, the little dome had a dent, and the ring was a dull clunk.

All evening, Hiro felt sick. He thought about hiding the bell in a drawer and saying he lost it. Instead, he wrapped it in a sock and walked to Marguerite's house.

"I broke it," he said, and he handed it over. "I'm so sorry. I'll pay for a new one, even if it takes all summer."

Marguerite held the dented bell. She was upset, and she did not pretend she wasn't. But she saw that Hiro had not run away from the problem.

"Thank you for telling me the truth," she said. "We'll fix it together. My uncle has a workshop."

On Saturday, her uncle tapped out the dent. The ring was not quite the same. But it was friendly, and it sounded a little like a laugh.

Questions

1. Why did Marguerite pause before lending her bell?

_____

_____

2. How did the bell get broken?

_____

_____

3. How did Hiro bring the bell back?

_____

_____

4. Who helped fix the bell?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Hiro told the truth instead of hiding the bell?

_____

_____

6. Why did Marguerite thank Hiro even though she was upset?

_____

_____

Words to know

pothole: a hole in the surface of a road
dented: pushed in, with a dip in the surface
workshop: a room with tools for making or fixing things

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 Borrowed Bicycle Bell

Triangle group

Marguerite's bicycle bell was the loudest on the block. It had a bright, silver ring that echoed down the street, and she had saved her allowance for three months to buy it. So when her friend Hiro asked to borrow it for the weekend parade, she hesitated.

"I'll be careful," Hiro promised. "I'll treat it like glass."

But on Sunday afternoon, a pothole bounced his bike, and the bell flew off and hit the curb. When Hiro picked it up, the little dome was dented, and the ring had changed into a dull clunk.

All evening, Hiro felt sick. He thought about hiding the bell in a drawer and saying he had lost it. Instead, he walked to Marguerite's house with the bell wrapped in a sock.

"I broke it," he said, and he handed it over. "I'm really sorry. I'll pay for a new one, even if it takes all summer."

Marguerite held the dented bell. She was upset, and she did not pretend that she wasn't. But she also noticed that Hiro had not run away from the problem.

"Thank you for telling me the truth," she said finally. "We'll fix it together. My uncle has a workshop."

On Saturday, her uncle tapped out the dent. The ring was not quite the same, but it was friendly, and it sounded a little like a laugh.

Questions

1. Why did Marguerite hesitate before lending her bell?

_____

_____

2. How did the bell get broken?

_____

_____

3. How did Hiro bring the bell back to Marguerite?

_____

_____

4. Who helped fix the bell?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Hiro told the truth instead of hiding the bell?

_____

_____

6. Why did Marguerite thank Hiro even though she was upset?

_____

_____

Words to know

hesitated: waited because you were not sure what to do
pothole: a hole in the surface of a road
dented: pushed in, with a dip in the surface
workshop: a room with tools for making or fixing things

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 Borrowed Bicycle Bell

Square group

Marguerite's bicycle bell was the loudest on the entire block. It produced a bright, silvery ring that echoed down the street, and she had saved her allowance for three whole months to buy it. So when her friend Hiro asked to borrow it for the weekend parade, she hesitated.

"I'll be extremely careful," Hiro promised. "I'll treat it like glass."

But on Sunday afternoon, a pothole jolted his bike, and the bell flew off and struck the curb. When Hiro picked it up, the little dome was dented, and the cheerful ring had turned into a dull clunk.

All evening, Hiro felt sick to his stomach. He considered hiding the bell in a drawer and claiming he had lost it. Instead, he wrapped it carefully in a sock and walked all the way to Marguerite's house.

"I broke it," he said, handing it over. "I'm truly sorry. I'll pay for a new one, even if it takes me the entire summer."

Marguerite held the dented bell in her palm. She was upset, and she did not pretend otherwise. But she also noticed that Hiro had not run away from the problem.

"Thank you for telling me the truth," she said at last. "We'll repair it together. My uncle has a workshop."

On Saturday, her uncle gently tapped out the dent. The ring was not quite the same as before, but it was warm and friendly, and it sounded a little like a laugh.

Questions

1. Why did Marguerite hesitate before lending Hiro her bell?

_____

_____

2. How did the bell end up broken?

_____

_____

3. How did Hiro return the bell to Marguerite?

_____

_____

4. Who helped repair the bell?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Hiro told the truth rather than hiding the bell?

_____

_____

6. Why did Marguerite thank Hiro even though she was upset?

_____

_____

Words to know

hesitated: waited because you were not sure what to do
pothole: a hole in the surface of a road
dented: pushed in, with a dip in the surface
workshop: a room with tools for making or fixing things

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 Borrowed Bicycle Bell

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

Circle: The Borrowed Bicycle Bell

Easier · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. She had saved her allowance for three months to buy it.
2. A pothole bounced Hiro's bike, and the bell hit the curb.
3. He wrapped it in a sock and walked to her house.
4. Marguerite's uncle.
5. It was the right thing to do, and he wanted to keep his friend's trust.
6. She valued his honesty and how he faced the problem.

Triangle: The Borrowed Bicycle Bell

This passage · 227 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. She had saved her allowance for three months to buy it.
2. A pothole bounced Hiro's bike, and the bell hit the curb.
3. He wrapped it in a sock and walked it to her house.
4. Marguerite's uncle.
5. He felt it was the right thing to do, and he cared about keeping his friend's trust.
6. She valued his honesty and the way he faced the problem.

Square: The Borrowed Bicycle Bell

Harder · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. She had saved her allowance for three whole months to buy it.
2. A pothole jolted Hiro's bike, and the bell flew off and struck the curb.
3. He wrapped it in a sock and walked to her house.
4. Marguerite's uncle.
5. He knew it was the right thing to do, and he cared about keeping his friend's trust.
6. She valued his honesty and the way he faced the problem.