Name: _____ Date: _____

The Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

Circle group

In Mr. Quill's clock shop, hundreds of clocks ticked all day long. Only one was silent. It sat on a high shelf, covered in dust, and nobody had ever seen its hands move.

Wren worked in the shop after school. One Tuesday, she heard a tiny sound behind her. Tick. She turned and saw the old clock's hands creeping forward. The big clock on the wall said 4:59. The silent clock said 5:00, and then, slowly, it said 5:01 and kept on going.

A strange hour began. The street outside went still. A bird hung in the air like a toy on a string. Mr. Quill stood frozen with a screwdriver in his hand. Only Wren could move.

She understood at once. This was a spare hour, tucked between 4:59 and 5:00, and it belonged to anyone who noticed it.

Across the street, Mrs. Abel was trying to finish a quilt for the town fair, but the shop closed at five and her thread had run out. Wren hurried over with a spool from the shop. She sat and stitched beside the frozen quilt until the last square was done.

At 5:00, the clock fell silent. The bird flew on, and Mr. Quill finished his sentence. Nobody knew what had happened, except that the quilt was ready, and Wren was smiling.

Questions

1. What was different about the clock on the high shelf?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the street during the spare hour?

_____

_____

3. Who was able to move during the spare hour?

_____

_____

4. Why did Wren go across the street?

_____

_____

5. Why did nobody else know the spare hour had happened?

_____

_____

6. How did Wren use the spare hour well?

_____

_____

Words to know

ticked: made the short, sharp sound a clock makes
creeping: moving very slowly and quietly
frozen: not able to move at all
spare: extra, and not needed for something else
stitched: sewed with a needle and thread

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 Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

Triangle group

In Mr. Quill's cluttered clock shop, hundreds of clocks ticked and chimed from morning until night. Only one remained silent. It sat on a high shelf, buried under dust, and no customer had ever seen its hands move.

Wren worked in the shop after school. One Tuesday afternoon, she heard a tiny sound behind her. Tick. She turned and saw the old clock's hands creeping forward. The big clock on the wall said 4:59, while the silent clock said 5:00, and then, slowly, it said 5:01 and kept on going.

A strange hour began. The street outside went completely still, and a bird hung in the air like a toy dangling from a string. Mr. Quill stood frozen with a screwdriver in his hand. Only Wren could move.

She grasped the situation at once. This was a spare hour, tucked invisibly between 4:59 and 5:00, and it belonged to anyone who happened to notice it.

Across the street, Mrs. Abel was struggling to finish a quilt for the town fair, but the shop closed at five and her thread had run out. Wren hurried over with a spool borrowed from the shop. She sat and stitched beside the frozen quilt until the final square was complete.

At exactly 5:00, the clock fell silent. The bird flew on, and Mr. Quill finished his sentence. Nobody knew what had happened, except that the quilt was ready, and Wren was smiling.

Questions

1. What was different about the clock on the high shelf?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the street outside during the spare hour?

_____

_____

3. Who was able to move during the spare hour?

_____

_____

4. Why did Wren hurry across the street?

_____

_____

5. Why did nobody else realize the spare hour had happened?

_____

_____

6. How did Wren make good use of the spare hour?

_____

_____

Words to know

ticked: made the short, sharp sound a clock makes
creeping: moving very slowly and quietly
frozen: not able to move at all
spare: extra, and not needed for something else
stitched: sewed with a needle and thread

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 Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

Square group

In Mr. Quill's cluttered clock shop, hundreds of clocks ticked and chimed from morning until night. Only one remained completely silent. It sat on a high shelf beneath a thick blanket of dust, and no customer had ever witnessed its hands move.

Wren worked in the shop after school. One Tuesday afternoon, she heard a tiny sound behind her. Tick. She turned around and saw the old clock's hands creeping forward. The big clock on the wall read 4:59, while the silent clock read 5:00, and then, slowly, it read 5:01 and kept on going.

A strange hour began. The street outside went perfectly still, and a bird hung in midair like a toy dangling from a string. Mr. Quill stood frozen with a screwdriver in his hand. Only Wren could move.

She grasped the situation at once. This was a spare hour, tucked invisibly between 4:59 and 5:00, and it belonged to anyone who happened to notice it.

Across the street, Mrs. Abel was struggling to finish a quilt for the town fair, but the shop closed at five and her thread had run out. Wren hurried over with a spool borrowed from the shop, sat beside the motionless quilt, and stitched steadily until the final square was complete.

At exactly 5:00, the clock fell silent once more. The bird flew on, and Mr. Quill finished his sentence. Nobody knew what had occurred, except that the quilt was ready, and Wren was smiling.

Questions

1. What was different about the clock on the high shelf?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the street outside during the spare hour?

_____

_____

3. Who was able to move during the spare hour?

_____

_____

4. Why did Wren hurry across the street?

_____

_____

5. Why did nobody else realize the spare hour had happened?

_____

_____

6. How did Wren make good use of the spare hour?

_____

_____

Words to know

ticked: made the short, sharp sound a clock makes
creeping: moving very slowly and quietly
frozen: not able to move at all
spare: extra, and not needed for something else
stitched: sewed with a needle and thread

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 Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

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

Circle: The Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

Easier · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. It was silent and its hands never moved.
2. Everything went still, and a bird hung in the air.
3. Only Wren.
4. Mrs. Abel needed thread to finish her quilt.
5. Everyone else was frozen, so no time seemed to pass for them.
6. She spent it helping a neighbor finish her quilt in time.

Triangle: The Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

This passage · 232 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. It was silent and its hands had never been seen to move.
2. It went completely still, and a bird hung in the air.
3. Only Wren.
4. Mrs. Abel had run out of thread and needed it to finish her quilt.
5. Everyone else was frozen, so no time seemed to pass for them.
6. She spent it helping a neighbor finish her quilt in time.

Square: The Clock That Only Ticked on Tuesdays

Harder · 238 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. It was silent and its hands had never been seen to move.
2. It went completely still, and a bird hung in the air.
3. Only Wren.
4. Mrs. Abel had run out of thread and needed it to finish her quilt.
5. Everyone else was frozen, so no time seemed to pass for them.
6. She spent it helping a neighbor finish her quilt in time.