Name: _____ Date: _____

The Egg Timer Treaty

Circle group

When Dad married Priya's mom, Priya got a stepbrother named Colm. She also got a bathroom to share with him. The trouble started on the first day of school. Colm spent twenty minutes on his hair. Priya waited in the hall with her toothbrush.

"You take forever," she called.

"You're too loud," Colm called back.

By Friday, they were not talking. Their parents made a schedule. It only gave them a new thing to fight about.

On Saturday, Priya found an old egg timer in a drawer. It was shaped like a chicken. She took it upstairs and knocked. "Ten minutes each," she said. "When it rings, we switch. You can't argue with the chicken."

Colm opened the door and looked at the timer. He almost smiled. "What if I need eleven minutes?"

"Then get up earlier."

"Fine," he said. "But I get to wind it."

The plan worked. Some mornings Colm left the chicken on the sink for her. It was already set. Priya began to wipe the counter dry for him. They did not talk about it. But the hall was quiet now, and it felt like a good start.

Questions

1. Who is Colm?

_____

_____

2. Why did the trouble start on the first day of school?

_____

_____

3. What did Priya find in the drawer?

_____

_____

4. How many minutes did each of them get?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think the timer worked when the schedule did not?

_____

_____

6. What does it show that Colm left the timer set and Priya wiped the counter?

_____

_____

Words to know

stepbrother: the son of your parent's husband or wife
schedule: a plan that lists what happens and when
argue: to speak angrily with someone who disagrees

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 Egg Timer Treaty

Triangle group

When Dad married Priya's mom, Priya gained a stepbrother named Colm, and she also gained a bathroom that she had to share with him. The trouble started on the first morning of school. Colm spent twenty minutes fixing his hair while Priya stood in the hallway with her toothbrush, hopping from foot to foot.

"You take forever," she called through the door.

"You're too loud," Colm called back.

By Friday, they were not speaking at all. Their parents wrote up a schedule, but the schedule only gave them something new to argue about.

On Saturday, Priya found an old egg timer shaped like a chicken in the back of a kitchen drawer. She carried it upstairs and knocked on the bathroom door. "Ten minutes each," she said. "When it rings, we switch. You can't argue with the chicken."

Colm opened the door and studied the timer. He almost smiled. "What if I need eleven minutes?"

"Then you get up earlier."

"Fine," he said. "But I get to wind it."

The plan worked better than anyone expected. Some mornings Colm left the chicken on the sink for her, already set. Priya started wiping the counter dry for him. Neither of them said a word about it, but the hallway grew quiet, and the quiet felt like a good beginning.

Questions

1. Who is Colm?

_____

_____

2. Why did the trouble start on the first morning of school?

_____

_____

3. What did Priya find in the kitchen drawer?

_____

_____

4. How much time did Priya say each of them would get?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think the timer worked when the schedule did not?

_____

_____

6. What does the story show by saying Colm left the timer set and Priya wiped the counter?

_____

_____

Words to know

stepbrother: the son of your parent's husband or wife
schedule: a plan that lists what happens and when
studied: looked at something closely and carefully
argue: to speak angrily with someone who disagrees

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 Egg Timer Treaty

Square group

When Dad married Priya's mother, Priya acquired a stepbrother named Colm, along with a bathroom that she was now expected to share with him. The trouble began on the very first morning of the school year. Colm lingered for twenty minutes in front of the mirror, fixing his hair, while Priya stood in the hallway with her toothbrush, hopping impatiently from foot to foot.

"You take forever," she called through the door.

"You're far too loud," Colm called back.

By Friday, the two of them were no longer speaking. Their parents drew up a careful schedule, but all it did was give the pair a brand-new thing to argue about.

On Saturday, Priya discovered an old egg timer shaped like a chicken, hidden at the back of a kitchen drawer. She carried it upstairs and knocked firmly on the bathroom door. "Ten minutes each," she announced. "When it rings, we switch places. Nobody can argue with the chicken."

Colm opened the door and studied the timer for a moment. He very nearly smiled. "What if I need eleven minutes?"

"Then you'll have to get up earlier."

"Fine," he said. "But I'm the one who gets to wind it."

The arrangement worked far better than anyone had expected. On some mornings, Colm left the chicken on the sink for her, already set and ticking. Priya started wiping the counter dry for him without being asked. Neither of them ever mentioned it, yet the hallway grew peaceful, and the peace felt like the beginning of something good.

Questions

1. Who is Colm in relation to Priya?

_____

_____

2. What caused the trouble on the first morning of school?

_____

_____

3. Where did Priya discover the egg timer, and what did it look like?

_____

_____

4. How much time did Priya say each of them would get?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think the timer succeeded where the parents' schedule had failed?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest by describing the set timer and the dry counter?

_____

_____

Words to know

stepbrother: the son of your parent's husband or wife
schedule: a plan that lists what happens and when
studied: looked at something closely and carefully
argue: to speak angrily with someone who disagrees

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 Egg Timer Treaty

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

Circle: The Egg Timer Treaty

Easier · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. He is Priya's new stepbrother.
2. Colm spent twenty minutes on his hair while Priya waited.
3. An old egg timer shaped like a chicken.
4. Ten minutes each.
5. The timer was fair and funny, and it was their own idea.
6. They were doing kind things and starting to get along.

Triangle: The Egg Timer Treaty

This passage · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. He is Priya's new stepbrother.
2. Colm spent twenty minutes on his hair while Priya waited in the hallway.
3. An old egg timer shaped like a chicken.
4. Ten minutes each.
5. The timer was fair and funny, and it was their own idea instead of a rule from the parents.
6. They were each doing small kind things and starting to get along.

Square: The Egg Timer Treaty

Harder · 256 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. He is her new stepbrother.
2. Colm spent twenty minutes on his hair while Priya waited in the hallway.
3. At the back of a kitchen drawer, shaped like a chicken.
4. Ten minutes each.
5. The timer was fair and playful, and it came from the two of them rather than from the adults.
6. They were quietly doing kind things for each other and beginning to get along.