Name: _____ Date: _____

The Jar of Orphan Screws

Circle group

On Saturday, Farid's father gave him a glass jar that rattled. "Sort these," he said. "I am tired of digging through them."

The jar held screws, bolts, washers, and nuts, all mixed up. Farid groaned. It looked like the most boring job ever. He put a muffin tin on the garage floor and began dropping pieces into the cups.

At first he sorted by size. Then he saw that two screws of the same length might not match. One had thin threads. The other had thick ones. So he sorted again by the shape of the head. Then he sorted by color, silver in one cup and brass in another.

By noon the tin looked like a rainbow of metal. Farid had also found a short brass screw with a flat, wide head. It did not belong to anything in the garage.

Then he thought of Grandma's wooden chair. It had wobbled ever since a leg screw went missing. Farid took the brass screw to the kitchen and turned it in with a screwdriver. It slid in as if it had been waiting for years. The chair stood still.

His father laughed. "That jar of orphans finally found a home."

Questions

1. What job did Farid's father give him?

_____

_____

2. What did Farid use to hold the sorted pieces?

_____

_____

3. What did Farid learn about two screws of the same length?

_____

_____

4. What was wrong with Grandma's wooden chair?

_____

_____

5. Why did Farid's father call the jar a jar of orphans?

_____

_____

6. How did careful sorting help Farid fix the chair?

_____

_____

Words to know

threads: the spiral ridges around a screw
wobbled: rocked from side to side
brass: a shiny yellow metal

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 Jar of Orphan Screws

Triangle group

On Saturday, Farid's father handed him a glass jar that rattled like a box of tiny bones. "Sort these," he said. "I am tired of digging through them every time I need one."

The jar held screws, bolts, washers, and nuts, all jumbled together. Farid groaned. It looked like the most boring job in the whole world. He set a muffin tin on the garage floor and began dropping pieces into the cups.

At first he sorted by size. Soon he noticed that two screws of the same length might not match at all. One had thin, tight threads, and the other had thick, coarse ones. He sorted again, this time by the shape of the head. Then he sorted by color, silver in one cup and brass in another.

By noon the muffin tin looked like a rainbow of metal. Farid had also found something else in the jar, a short brass screw with a flat, wide head that did not belong to anything in the garage.

Then he remembered Grandma's wooden chair. It had wobbled ever since one leg screw went missing. Farid carried the brass screw to the kitchen and turned it with a screwdriver. It slid in as if it had been waiting for years. The chair stood perfectly still.

His father laughed. "It looks like that jar of orphans finally found a home."

Questions

1. What job did Farid's father give him?

_____

_____

2. What did Farid use to hold the sorted pieces?

_____

_____

3. What did Farid learn about two screws that were the same length?

_____

_____

4. What was wrong with Grandma's wooden chair?

_____

5. Why did Farid's father call the jar a jar of orphans?

6. How did sorting the jar carefully help Farid solve the chair problem?

Words to know

threads: the spiral ridges around a screw
coarse: rough and thick, not fine
jumbled: mixed up in a messy way
wobbled: rocked from side to side
brass: a shiny yellow metal

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 Jar of Orphan Screws

Square group

On Saturday morning, Farid's father handed him a glass jar that rattled like a box of tiny bones. "Sort these," he said. "I am tired of digging through them every time I need a single screw."

The jar held screws, bolts, washers, and nuts, all jumbled together in a metallic heap. Farid groaned, because it looked like the most tedious job in the entire world. Nevertheless, he set a muffin tin on the garage floor and began dropping pieces into its cups.

At first he sorted by size. Before long he noticed that two screws of identical length might not match at all, since one had thin, tight threads while the other had thick, coarse ones. He sorted again, this time by the shape of the head, and then by color, with silver pieces in one cup and brass pieces in another.

By noon the muffin tin resembled a rainbow of metal. Farid had also discovered something unusual in the jar, a short brass screw with a flat, wide head that did not belong to anything in the garage.

Then he remembered Grandma's wooden chair, which had wobbled ever since one of its leg screws disappeared. Farid carried the brass screw into the kitchen and turned it with a screwdriver. It slid into place as though it had been waiting for years, and the chair stood perfectly still.

His father laughed. "It looks as if that jar of orphans has finally found a home."

Questions

1. What job did Farid's father give him?

_____

_____

2. What did Farid use to hold the sorted pieces?

_____

_____

3. What did Farid learn about two screws of identical length?

_____

_____

4. What was wrong with Grandma's wooden chair?

_____

_____

5. Why did Farid's father call the jar a jar of orphans?

_____

_____

6. How did sorting the jar carefully help Farid solve the chair problem?

_____

_____

Words to know

threads: the spiral ridges around a screw
coarse: rough and thick, not fine
jumbled: mixed up in a messy way
wobbled: rocked from side to side
brass: a shiny yellow metal

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 Jar of Orphan Screws

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

Circle: The Jar of Orphan Screws

Easier · 200 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. To sort the screws, bolts, washers, and nuts in a jar.
2. A muffin tin.
3. They might have different threads and not match.
4. It wobbled because a leg screw was missing.
5. The screws had no home because they were not holding anything.
6. He noticed the odd brass screw and saw that it might fit.

Triangle: The Jar of Orphan Screws

This passage · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. To sort the screws, bolts, washers, and nuts in a jar.
2. A muffin tin.
3. They might have different threads, so they might not match.
4. It wobbled because one leg screw was missing.
5. The screws had no home, because they were not attached to anything.
6. It let him spot the unusual brass screw and see that it might fit.

Square: The Jar of Orphan Screws

Harder · 244 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. To sort the screws, bolts, washers, and nuts in a jar.
2. A muffin tin.
3. They might have different threads, so they might not match.
4. It wobbled because one of its leg screws had disappeared.
5. The screws had no home, since they were not attached to anything.
6. It let him spot the unusual brass screw and realize it might fit.