Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lemon Tree Swap

Circle group

Nora's family had a lemon tree in the backyard. This summer it was full of fruit. There were so many lemons that the branches bent low. Nora's mother made lemonade, lemon cake, and lemon rice. But the tree still seemed full.

"We cannot eat all of these," said Nora. "They will rot on the ground." She looked over the fence at the yard next door. Mrs. Kim had a vegetable garden. Nora could see red tomatoes and long green beans on the vines.

Then Nora had an idea. She filled a basket with ripe lemons. She knocked on Mrs. Kim's door. "We have more lemons than we can use," she said. "Would you like some?"

Mrs. Kim's face lit up. "Thank you, Nora! I love lemons. Wait a moment." She went into the garden. She came back with a bag of tomatoes and beans. "Here is a little something from my yard."

Soon the idea spread. The man across the street gave a jar of honey from his bees. A girl down the block brought a loaf of banana bread. Nora painted a sign that said "Swap Table." She set it on the sidewalk with a basket of lemons.

By the end of summer, the whole street was trading. Nora learned that sharing extra things can bring back more than you give.

Questions

1. What was the problem at the start of the story?

_____

_____

2. What did Mrs. Kim give Nora for the lemons?

_____

_____

3. What did Nora write on her sign?

_____

_____

4. Why did Nora knock on Mrs. Kim's door?

_____

_____

5. What lesson did Nora learn?

_____

_____

Words to know

ripe: fully grown and ready to eat
vines: long, thin plant stems that climb or spread
swap: to trade one thing for another

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 Lemon Tree Swap

Triangle group

Nora's family had a lemon tree in the backyard, and this summer it was loaded with so much fruit that the branches bent low. Nora's mother made lemonade, lemon cake, and lemon rice, but the tree still seemed full.

"We cannot eat all of these," said Nora, "and they will rot on the ground before anyone can use them." She looked over the fence at the yard next door, where Mrs. Kim had a vegetable garden. Nora could see tomatoes turning red and long green beans hanging from the vines.

An idea popped into her head. Nora filled a basket with ripe lemons and knocked on Mrs. Kim's door. "We have more lemons than we can use," she said. "Would you like some?"

Mrs. Kim's face lit up. "Thank you, Nora! I love lemons. Wait just a moment." She disappeared into the garden and came back with a bag of tomatoes and beans. "Here is a little something from my yard."

Soon the idea spread. The man across the street offered a jar of honey from his bees. A girl down the block brought over a loaf of banana bread. Nora painted a sign that read "Swap Table" and set it on the sidewalk with a basket of lemons.

By the end of the summer, the whole street was trading. Nora learned that sharing what she had left over could bring back more than she gave.

Questions

1. What was the problem at the start of the story?

_____

_____

2. What did Mrs. Kim give Nora in return for lemons?

_____

_____

3. What did Nora write on her sign?

_____

_____

4. Why did Nora knock on Mrs. Kim's door?

_____

_____

5. What lesson did Nora learn?

_____

_____

Words to know

loaded: carrying a very large amount
ripe: fully grown and ready to eat
vines: long, thin plant stems that climb or spread
swap: to trade one thing for another
offered: held out something for someone to take

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 Lemon Tree Swap

Square group

Nora's family owned a lemon tree in the backyard, and this summer it was heavily loaded with fruit. There were so many lemons that the branches sagged toward the ground. Nora's mother had made lemonade, lemon cake, and lemon rice, yet the tree still appeared to be overflowing.

"We cannot possibly eat all of these," said Nora. "They will rot on the ground." She gazed over the fence at the yard next door. Mrs. Kim tended a vegetable garden, and Nora could see tomatoes ripening to red and long green beans dangling from the vines.

An idea popped into her head. Nora filled a basket with ripe lemons and knocked on Mrs. Kim's door. "We have more lemons than we can use," she explained. "Would you like some?"

Mrs. Kim's face brightened. "Thank you, Nora! I adore lemons. Wait just a moment." She vanished into the garden and returned with a bag of tomatoes and beans. "Here is a little something from my yard."

Soon the idea spread throughout the neighborhood. The man across the street offered a jar of honey from his bees, and a girl down the block delivered a loaf of banana bread. Nora painted a sign that read "Swap Table" and placed it on the sidewalk beside a basket of lemons.

By the end of the summer, the entire street was trading. Nora had discovered that sharing what she had left over could bring back more than she gave.

Questions

1. What was the problem at the start of the story?

_____

_____

2. What did Mrs. Kim give Nora in return for the lemons?

_____

_____

3. What did Nora write on her sign?

_____

_____

4. Why did Nora knock on Mrs. Kim's door?

_____

_____

5. What lesson had Nora discovered?

_____

_____

Words to know

loaded: carrying a very large amount
ripe: fully grown and ready to eat
vines: long, thin plant stems that climb or spread
swap: to trade one thing for another
offered: held out something for someone to take

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 Lemon Tree Swap

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

Circle: The Lemon Tree Swap

Easier · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. The lemon tree had more lemons than Nora's family could use.
2. A bag of tomatoes and beans.
3. Swap Table.
4. She had an idea to share extra lemons with a neighbor who liked them.
5. Sharing extra things can bring back more than you give.

Triangle: The Lemon Tree Swap

This passage · 236 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. The lemon tree had more lemons than Nora's family could use.
2. A bag of tomatoes and beans.
3. Swap Table.
4. She had an idea to share extra lemons with a neighbor who liked them.
5. Sharing extra things can bring back more than you give.

Square: The Lemon Tree Swap

Harder · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. The lemon tree had more lemons than Nora's family could use.
2. A bag of tomatoes and beans.
3. Swap Table.
4. She had an idea to share extra lemons with a neighbor who liked them.
5. Sharing extra things can bring back more than you give.