Name: _____ Date: _____

The Substitute Bus Driver

Circle group

On Monday morning, the school bus came with a new driver. Ms. Alvarez, the regular driver, was sick. A man named Mr. Bell sat behind the wheel. He wore a neat blue cap. He said hello to each student with a nod.

Jamal took his usual seat by the window. He knew the route well. After the bakery came the library. Then came the park. Then came his own street, Maple Lane. But today Mr. Bell was new to the route. The bus rolled past the park. Jamal looked at the street sign. The bus did not turn onto Maple Lane. It kept going straight.

Jamal's heart thumped. He wanted to say something, but he felt shy. Maybe the driver knew a faster way. Then he thought of what his teacher always said. "If something seems wrong, tell a grown-up politely."

Jamal stood up with care. He walked to the front and held the rail. "Excuse me, Mr. Bell," he said. "Maple Lane was the last turn we passed. Five kids get off there."

Mr. Bell looked at his paper. "Maple Lane. You are right! Thank you for telling me." He found a safe place to turn the bus around. Then he took the right street.

At Maple Lane, the other kids cheered for Jamal. Mr. Bell tipped his cap. "Tomorrow, I will know the way," he said.

Questions

1. Why did the bus have a new driver?

_____

_____

2. What were the stops on the route before Jamal's street?

_____

_____

3. What did Jamal notice when the bus went past the park?

_____

_____

4. Why did Jamal feel nervous about speaking up?

_____

_____

5. What did the teacher's advice help Jamal do?

_____

_____

Words to know

regular: the usual one, not someone new
route: the path that is followed from place to place
politely: in a kind way that shows good manners

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 Substitute Bus Driver

Triangle group

On Monday morning, the school bus pulled up with a new driver, because Ms. Alvarez, the regular driver, was sick. A man named Mr. Bell sat behind the wheel, wearing a tidy blue cap, and he said hello to each student with a friendly nod.

Jamal took his usual seat by the window. He knew the route very well, and he knew that after the bakery came the library, then the park, and then his own street, Maple Lane. Today, though, Mr. Bell was unfamiliar with the route. When the bus rolled past the park, Jamal glanced at the street sign and noticed that the bus did not turn onto Maple Lane but kept going straight.

Jamal's heart thumped. He wanted to speak up, but he felt shy, and he wondered whether the driver might know a faster way. Then he remembered what his teacher always said, which was that if something seems wrong, you should tell a grown-up politely.

Jamal stood up carefully, walked to the front of the bus, and held onto the rail. "Excuse me, Mr. Bell," he said. "Maple Lane was the last turn we passed, and five kids get off there."

Mr. Bell looked at his paper. "Maple Lane. You are right! Thank you for telling me." He found a safe place to turn the bus around and then drove to the correct street.

When the bus reached Maple Lane, the other kids cheered for Jamal. Mr. Bell tipped his cap and said, "Tomorrow, I will know the way."

Questions

1. Why did the bus have a new driver?

_____

_____

2. What was the order of the stops on the route before Jamal's street?

_____

_____

3. What did Jamal notice when the bus went past the park?

_____

_____

4. Why did Jamal feel nervous about speaking up?

_____

_____

5. What did Jamal's teacher's advice help him do?

_____

_____

Words to know

regular: the usual one, not someone new
route: the path that is followed from place to place
politely: in a kind way that shows good manners
glanced: looked quickly
tidy: neat and clean

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 Substitute Bus Driver

Square group

On Monday morning, the school bus arrived with an unfamiliar driver. Ms. Alvarez, the regular driver, was ill, so a man named Mr. Bell sat behind the wheel. He wore a tidy blue cap and greeted each student with a friendly nod.

Jamal settled into his usual seat by the window, because he knew the route thoroughly. After the bakery came the library, then the park, and finally his own street, Maple Lane. Today, however, Mr. Bell was completely unfamiliar with the route, and when the bus rolled past the park, Jamal glanced at the street sign and realized that the bus had not turned onto Maple Lane but was continuing straight ahead.

Jamal's heart thumped. He wanted to speak up, but he felt shy, and he wondered whether the driver might know a quicker way. Then he recalled what his teacher always told the class, which was that if something seems wrong, a person should politely inform a grown-up.

Jamal stood up carefully, made his way to the front, and gripped the rail. "Excuse me, Mr. Bell," he said. "Maple Lane was the last turn we passed. Five kids get off there."

Mr. Bell consulted his paper. "Maple Lane. You are absolutely right! Thank you for telling me." He located a safe place to turn the bus around and headed down the correct street.

When the bus reached Maple Lane, the other children cheered for Jamal. Mr. Bell tipped his cap and promised, "Tomorrow, I will know the way."

Questions

1. Why did the bus arrive with an unfamiliar driver?

_____

_____

2. What was the order of the stops on the route before Jamal's street?

_____

_____

3. What did Jamal notice when the bus rolled past the park?

_____

_____

4. Why did Jamal feel nervous about speaking up?

_____

_____

5. How did the teacher's advice help Jamal?

_____

_____

Words to know

regular: the usual one, not someone new
route: the path that is followed from place to place
politely: in a kind way that shows good manners
glanced: looked quickly
tidy: neat and clean

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 Substitute Bus Driver

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

Circle: The Substitute Bus Driver

Easier · 229 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Ms. Alvarez, the regular driver, was sick.
2. The bakery, the library, and the park.
3. The bus did not turn onto Maple Lane.
4. He felt shy and thought the driver might know a faster way.
5. It helped him politely tell the driver about the missed turn.

Triangle: The Substitute Bus Driver

This passage · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. Ms. Alvarez, the regular driver, was sick.
2. The bakery, the library, and the park.
3. The bus did not turn onto Maple Lane.
4. He felt shy and thought the driver might know a faster way.
5. It helped him politely tell the driver about the missed turn.

Square: The Substitute Bus Driver

Harder · 251 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Ms. Alvarez, the regular driver, was ill.
2. The bakery, the library, and the park.
3. The bus had not turned onto Maple Lane.
4. He felt shy and wondered whether the driver knew a quicker way.
5. It helped him politely tell the driver about the missed turn.