Name: _____ Date: _____

The Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

Circle group

Inside Grandma Rue's sewing box, two tiny kingdoms lived side by side. The Pin People lived in the cushion on the left, with their sharp little hats. The Button Folk lived in the tin on the right, and they were round and shiny and a bit proud.

Ravi had visited the box only once, when Grandma let him look through a magnifying glass. Now he heard a sound like thin, angry bells. The two kingdoms were arguing.

"The pearl button belongs to us," cried the Button Folk.

"It fell onto our cushion," answered the Pin People. "We say it is ours."

The pearl button, as big as a dinner plate to them, lay in the space between the kingdoms. Both sides wanted it.

Ravi held up a thimble. "May I help?" he asked. "I will be the embassy, a neutral place to talk."

He set the thimble down in the middle of the box and invited one person from each side to sit inside. They listened to each other for a long time. At last, a Pin woman said, "We only want somewhere to dance on Saturdays."

"We want the same!" said a Button man, surprised.

The solution came easily after that. They agreed to share the pearl button as a dance floor. The Pin People would use it on Saturday mornings, and the Button Folk would use it in the evenings. Ravi sewed a thread bridge from each home to the button, and the tiny bells rang happily.

Questions

1. Where did the Pin People and Button Folk live?

_____

_____

2. What were the two kingdoms arguing over?

_____

_____

3. What did Ravi turn the thimble into?

_____

_____

4. What did both sides really want the button for?

_____

_____

5. Why did talking in the thimble help?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ravi sew thread bridges?

_____

_____

Words to know

kingdoms: lands that are ruled by a king or queen
cushion: a soft pad, such as one that holds pins
magnifying: making small things look larger
embassy: a place where groups send people to talk
neutral: not taking one side over the other

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 Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

Triangle group

Inside Grandma Rue's old sewing box, two tiny kingdoms lived side by side in uneasy peace. The Pin People inhabited the cushion on the left, wearing their sharp little hats. The Button Folk occupied the tin on the right, and they were round and shiny and rather proud.

Ravi had peeked into the box only once, when Grandma allowed him to look through a magnifying glass. Now he heard a sound like thin, angry bells. The two kingdoms were quarreling.

"The pearl button belongs to us," cried the Button Folk indignantly.

"It fell onto our cushion," the Pin People answered. "We insist that it is ours."

To the tiny citizens, the pearl button was as big as a dinner plate, and it lay in the space between the kingdoms. Both sides wanted it badly.

Ravi held up a thimble. "May I help?" he asked. "I will turn this into an embassy, a neutral place where you can talk."

He set the thimble down in the middle of the box and invited one person from each side to sit inside. They listened to one another for a long time. At last, a Pin woman admitted, "We only want somewhere to dance on Saturdays."

"We want exactly the same thing!" exclaimed a Button man, astonished.

The solution came easily after that. They agreed to share the pearl button as a dance floor, with the Pin People using it on Saturday mornings and the Button Folk using it in the evenings. Ravi stitched a thread bridge from each home to the button, and the tiny bells rang joyfully.

Questions

1. Where did the Pin People and the Button Folk live?

_____

_____

2. What were the two kingdoms quarreling about?

_____

_____

3. What did Ravi turn the thimble into?

_____

_____

4. What did both sides really want the button for?

_____

_____

5. Why did talking in the thimble help the kingdoms?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ravi stitch thread bridges?

_____

_____

Words to know

kingdoms: lands that are ruled by a king or queen
cushion: a soft pad, such as one that holds pins
magnifying: making small things look larger
embassy: a place where groups send people to talk
neutral: not taking one side over the other

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 Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

Square group

Inside Grandma Rue's old sewing box, two tiny kingdoms lived side by side in uneasy peace. The Pin People inhabited the cushion on the left and wore sharp little hats, while the Button Folk occupied the tin on the right and were round, shiny and rather proud.

Ravi had peeked into the box only once, when Grandma allowed him to look through a magnifying glass. Now he heard a sound like thin, angry bells. The two kingdoms were quarreling.

"The pearl button belongs to us," cried the Button Folk indignantly.

"It fell onto our cushion," the Pin People answered. "We insist that it is ours."

To the tiny citizens, the pearl button was as large as a dinner plate, and it lay in the space between the two kingdoms. Both sides wanted it badly.

Ravi held up a thimble. "May I help?" he asked. "I will turn this into an embassy, a neutral place where you can talk without taking sides."

He set the thimble down in the middle of the box and invited one person from each kingdom to sit inside. They listened to one another for a long time. At last, a Pin woman admitted, "We only want somewhere to dance on Saturdays."

"We want exactly the same thing!" exclaimed a Button man, astonished.

The solution came easily after that. They agreed to share the pearl button as a dance floor, with the Pin People using it on Saturday mornings and the Button Folk using it in the evenings. Ravi stitched a thread bridge from each home to the button, and the tiny bells rang joyfully.

Questions

1. Where did the Pin People and the Button Folk live?

_____

_____

2. What were the two kingdoms quarreling about?

_____

_____

3. What did Ravi turn the thimble into?

_____

_____

4. What did both sides really want the button for?

_____

_____

5. Why did talking in the thimble help the kingdoms?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ravi stitch thread bridges?

_____

_____

Words to know

kingdoms: lands that are ruled by a king or queen
cushion: a soft pad, such as one that holds pins
magnifying: making small things look larger
embassy: a place where groups send people to talk
neutral: not taking one side over the other

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 Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

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

Circle: The Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

Easier · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. In Grandma Rue's sewing box, in a cushion and a tin.
2. A pearl button that lay between them.
3. A neutral place, called an embassy, where they could talk.
4. A place to dance on Saturdays.
5. Each side listened and learned they wanted the same thing, so they could share.
6. So each kingdom could walk safely to the shared dance floor.

Triangle: The Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

This passage · 265 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. In Grandma Rue's sewing box, in a cushion and a tin.
2. A pearl button that lay between them.
3. A neutral place, called an embassy, where they could talk.
4. Somewhere to dance on Saturdays.
5. Each side listened and discovered they wanted the same thing, so they could share.
6. So each kingdom could walk safely to the shared dance floor.

Square: The Thimble Embassy in Grandma's Sewing Box

Harder · 268 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. In Grandma Rue's sewing box, in a cushion and a tin.
2. A pearl button that lay between them.
3. A neutral place, called an embassy, where they could talk.
4. Somewhere to dance on Saturdays.
5. Each side listened and discovered they wanted the same thing, so they could share.
6. So each kingdom could walk safely to the shared dance floor.