Name: _____ Date: _____

The Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

Circle group

Tamsin, a young weaver bird, spent four days building her first nest on a thin branch above the river. She wove each blade of grass tightly, and she felt proud when the last knot was tied. The nest looked perfect, round and green and neat.

An old weaver named Odo hopped along the branch and studied her work. "It is lovely," he said, "but the entrance faces upward. When the rain comes, it will pour straight inside."

Tamsin felt hurt. She had worked so hard! For a long while she sat silent and did not answer. Then the first drops began to fall, and she watched water gather in her nest like a small pond.

That evening she pulled out her knots one by one. It was slow work, and her beak grew sore. By the next sunset she had rebuilt the entrance so that it opened downward, with a short tunnel to keep out the wind.

When the next storm rolled over the river, Tamsin lay dry and warm. She thought about Odo's words and was glad she had listened. A good builder is not someone who never makes mistakes. A good builder is someone who is willing to fix them.

Questions

1. How long did Tamsin spend building her first nest?

_____

_____

2. What problem did Odo notice with the nest?

_____

_____

3. What happened inside the nest when the first drops fell?

_____

_____

4. How did Tamsin change the entrance?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tamsin sit silent after Odo spoke?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach about mistakes?

_____

_____

Words to know

weaver: a bird that ties grass into a woven nest
knot: a tied loop that holds things together
entrance: the opening where you go in
tunnel: a narrow passage with walls around it
rebuilt: built again after fixing a problem

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 Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

Triangle group

Tamsin, a young weaver bird, devoted four entire days to constructing her very first nest on a slender branch that hung out above the river. She wove each blade of grass tightly together, and when she finally tied the last knot, she felt enormously proud. The finished nest looked perfect: round, green, and wonderfully neat.

An elderly weaver named Odo hopped along the branch and examined her handiwork with great care. "It is lovely," he said, "but your entrance faces upward. When the rain comes, it will pour straight inside and fill the whole nest."

Tamsin felt hurt and embarrassed, because she had labored so hard and so long. For a long while she sat silent and did not answer him. Then the first drops began to fall, and she watched, with a sinking heart, as water gathered in her nest like a small pond.

That evening she patiently pulled out her knots one by one. It was slow, tiring work, and before long her beak grew sore. By the following sunset she had rebuilt the entrance so that it opened downward, with a short tunnel that would also keep out the wind.

When the next storm rolled across the river, Tamsin lay dry and warm in her nest. She thought about Odo's advice and was grateful she had listened. A good builder is not someone who never makes mistakes. A good builder is someone who is willing to admit them and fix them.

Questions

1. How much time did Tamsin spend building her first nest?

_____

_____

2. What problem did Odo notice when he examined the nest?

_____

_____

3. What happened inside the nest when the first drops fell?

_____

_____

4. How did Tamsin rebuild the entrance?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tamsin feel hurt and sit silent after Odo spoke?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach about mistakes and advice?

_____

_____

Words to know

weaver: a bird that ties grass into a woven nest
knot: a tied loop that holds things together
entrance: the opening where you go in
tunnel: a narrow passage with walls around it
rebuilt: built again after fixing a problem

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 Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

Square group

Tamsin, a young weaver bird, devoted four entire days to constructing her very first nest on a slender branch that extended out over the river, and she wove each blade of grass so tightly together that, when she finally tied the last knot, she felt enormously and justifiably proud. The finished nest looked perfect: round, green, and wonderfully neat.

An elderly weaver named Odo hopped along the branch and examined her handiwork with great care before offering his opinion. "It is lovely," he said, "but your entrance faces upward, which means that whenever the rain comes, it will pour straight inside and fill the whole nest."

Tamsin felt hurt and embarrassed, because she had labored so diligently and for so long. For a long while she sat in silence and did not answer him, until the first drops began to fall and she watched, with a sinking heart, as water gathered in her nest like a small pond.

That evening she patiently pulled out her knots one by one, which was slow and tiring work that soon left her beak sore. By the following sunset she had rebuilt the entrance so that it opened downward, with a short tunnel that would additionally keep out the wind.

When the next storm rolled across the river, Tamsin lay dry and warm in her nest, thinking about Odo's advice and feeling grateful that she had listened. A good builder is not someone who never makes mistakes; a good builder is someone who is willing to admit them and then repair them.

Questions

1. How much time did Tamsin spend building her first nest?

_____

_____

2. What problem did Odo notice when he examined the nest?

_____

_____

3. What happened inside the nest when the first drops fell?

_____

_____

4. How did Tamsin rebuild the entrance?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tamsin feel hurt and sit silent after Odo spoke?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach about mistakes and advice?

_____

_____

Words to know

weaver: a bird that ties grass into a woven nest
knot: a tied loop that holds things together
entrance: the opening where you go in
tunnel: a narrow passage with walls around it
rebuilt: built again after fixing a problem

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 Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

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

Circle: The Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

Easier · 202 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. Four days.
2. The entrance faced upward, so rain would pour inside.
3. Water gathered inside like a small pond.
4. She made it open downward with a short tunnel.
5. She felt hurt because she had worked so hard on the nest.
6. A good builder listens and is willing to fix mistakes.

Triangle: The Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

This passage · 244 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. Four entire days.
2. The entrance faced upward, so rain would pour inside.
3. Water gathered inside like a small pond.
4. She made it open downward with a short tunnel that also kept out wind.
5. She had worked so hard and was embarrassed to hear that the nest had a flaw.
6. Good builders listen to advice and are willing to admit and fix their mistakes.

Square: The Weaver Who Unpicked Her Nest

Harder · 258 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 11.2

1. Four entire days.
2. The entrance faced upward, so rain would pour inside.
3. Water gathered inside like a small pond.
4. She made it open downward with a short tunnel that also kept out wind.
5. She had worked so hard and was embarrassed to hear that the nest had a flaw.
6. Good builders listen to advice and are willing to admit and fix their mistakes.