Name: _____ Date: _____

Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

Circle group

Nell watched the moving truck park next door. She felt a small, hopeful flutter. Then she saw that the only kid in the family was a boy her age. He dragged a box to the porch and did not look up once. By supper, she had decided he must be unfriendly.

Her grandmother did not agree. "Maybe he's just shy," she said. "Try something easy."

So Nell dug her old walkie-talkies out of the closet. That night she hung one on the fence by his window. She left a note: "Channel 3. Say something if you want."

Nothing happened for two days. Then, on a rainy afternoon, the walkie-talkie crackled. "Hello?" said a quiet voice. "This is Arjun. Is anyone there?"

"This is Nell," she said. She almost dropped her sandwich. "Welcome to Maple Street."

They talked about everything. Arjun said his old dog was staying with an aunt until his family unpacked. Nell said which neighbor gave out full-sized candy bars at Halloween. They did not have to see each other, so talking was easy.

On Saturday, Arjun walked to the fence. He held up his own walkie-talkie. He smiled a little nervously. "Hi," he said, out loud.

"Hi," said Nell. She did not need the radio for that.

Questions

1. Why did Nell first think the new boy was unfriendly?

_____

_____

2. What did Nell hang on the fence by Arjun's window?

_____

_____

3. How long did Nell wait before the walkie-talkie crackled?

_____

_____

4. Where was Arjun's old dog staying?

_____

_____

5. Why did the walkie-talkie help Arjun?

_____

_____

6. What does Nell mean when she says she did not need the radio for that?

_____

_____

Words to know

flutter: a quick, light feeling of excitement
unfriendly: not kind or welcoming to others
crackled: made a sharp, snapping sound
nervously: in a worried or uneasy way

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: _____

Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

Triangle group

Nell watched the moving truck park next door and felt a small, hopeful flutter. Then she saw that the only kid in the family was a boy her age who dragged a box to the porch without once looking up. By supper, she had decided he must be unfriendly.

Her grandmother disagreed. "Maybe he's just shy," she said. "Try something easy."

So Nell dug her old walkie-talkies out of the closet. That night she hung one on the fence by his window with a note: "Channel 3. Say something if you want."

Nothing happened for two days. Then, late on a rainy afternoon, the walkie-talkie crackled. "Hello?" said a quiet voice. "This is Arjun. Is anyone there?"

"This is Nell," she said, nearly dropping her sandwich. "Welcome to Maple Street."

They talked about everything. Arjun told her that his old dog was staying with an aunt until his family unpacked. Nell told him which neighbor gave out full-sized candy bars at Halloween. Neither of them had to look at the other, and that made the talking easy.

On Saturday, Arjun walked to the fence and held up his own walkie-talkie. He was smiling, a little nervously. "Hi," he said, out loud.

"Hi," said Nell. She did not need the radio for that.

Questions

1. Why did Nell first think the new boy was unfriendly?

_____

_____

2. What did Nell hang on the fence by Arjun's window?

_____

_____

3. How long did Nell wait before the walkie-talkie crackled?

_____

_____

4. Where was Arjun's old dog staying?

_____

_____

5. Why did the walkie-talkie help Arjun?

_____

_____

6. What does Nell mean when she says she did not need the radio for that?

_____

_____

Words to know

flutter: a quick, light feeling of excitement
unfriendly: not kind or welcoming to others
crackled: made a sharp, snapping sound
nervously: in a worried or uneasy way

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: _____

Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

Square group

Nell watched the moving truck pull up next door and felt a small, hopeful flutter of excitement. Then she noticed that the only child in the family was a boy her own age, who dragged a heavy box onto the porch without once glancing up. By suppertime, she had concluded that he must be unfriendly.

Her grandmother disagreed. "Perhaps he's simply shy," she said. "Try something easy and low-pressure."

So Nell dug her old walkie-talkies out of the back of the closet. That night she hung one on the fence beside his bedroom window, along with a note: "Channel 3. Say something if you want."

Nothing happened for two whole days. Then, late on a rainy afternoon, the walkie-talkie crackled to life. "Hello?" said a quiet voice. "This is Arjun. Is anyone there?"

"This is Nell," she answered, nearly dropping her sandwich. "Welcome to Maple Street."

They talked about everything under the sun. Arjun explained that his old dog was staying with an aunt until his family finished unpacking. Nell told him which neighbor handed out full-sized candy bars at Halloween. Neither of them had to look at the other, and that made the conversation flow easily.

On Saturday, Arjun walked right up to the fence and held up his own walkie-talkie, smiling a little nervously. "Hi," he said, out loud.

"Hi," said Nell. She did not need the radio for that.

Questions

1. Why did Nell at first believe the new boy was unfriendly?

_____

_____

2. What did Nell hang on the fence beside Arjun's window?

_____

_____

3. How long did Nell wait before the walkie-talkie crackled to life?

_____

_____

4. Where was Arjun's old dog staying, and why?

_____

_____

5. Why did the walkie-talkie make things easier for Arjun?

_____

_____

6. What does Nell mean when she says she did not need the radio for that?

_____

_____

Words to know

flutter: a quick, light feeling of excitement
unfriendly: not kind or welcoming to others
crackled: made a sharp, snapping sound
nervously: in a worried or uneasy way

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: Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

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

Circle: Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

Easier · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. He carried a box to the porch and did not look up.
2. A walkie-talkie with a note.
3. Two days.
4. With an aunt until the family unpacked.
5. He was shy, and talking without being seen was easier.
6. Arjun was now brave enough to talk to her face to face.

Triangle: Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

This passage · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. He carried a box to the porch without looking up.
2. A walkie-talkie with a note on it.
3. Two days.
4. With an aunt until the family finished unpacking.
5. He was shy, and talking without being seen made it easier to start.
6. Arjun had become brave enough to talk to her face to face.

Square: Walkie-Talkies Along the Fence

Harder · 236 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. He dragged a box onto the porch without once looking up.
2. A walkie-talkie with a note attached.
3. Two whole days.
4. With an aunt, until his family finished unpacking.
5. He was shy, and talking without being seen made it easier to begin.
6. Arjun had grown brave enough to speak to her in person.