Name: _____ Date: _____

Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

Circle group

Mrs. Abara loved wordplay. On the last Tuesday of September, she said Room 12 would have a Backwards Day. "Everything today happens in reverse," she said. "Even this announcement. Class dismissed!"

The students were confused. They stood up and walked toward the door. Mrs. Abara chuckled and called them back. "In a backwards day, we say goodbye first and hello last," she said.

So they said goodbye to each other and sat down. They wrote the date at the bottom of the page and the title at the top. Eli tried to read his book from the last page to the first. He spoiled the ending for himself.

At nine o'clock, Mrs. Abara wrote palindromes on the board. These are words that read the same forward and backward. "Racecar," she said. "Level. Kayak." Noor added "noon." Theo offered "madam" but had the wrong number of letters. The class howled.

For lunch they ate dessert first. The staff served cookies, then sandwiches, then one sad carrot. Eli said it was the best lunch of his life, except for the carrot.

At the end of the day, Mrs. Abara said, "Good morning, everyone." The students yawned and said, "Good morning." They walked home in the afternoon sun. Nobody forgot that day. Nobody got tired of palindromes.

Questions

1. What happened on Backwards Day in Room 12?

_____

_____

2. What is a palindrome?

_____

_____

3. Which palindromes did the class find?

_____

_____

4. What did the students eat first at lunch?

_____

_____

5. Why did Eli spoil the ending for himself?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mrs. Abara say good morning at the end of the day?

_____

_____

Words to know

wordplay: clever or funny use of words
reverse: the opposite way or order
dismissed: told to leave or go home
palindromes: words that read the same forward and backward

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: _____

Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

Triangle group

Mrs. Abara adored wordplay, so on the last Tuesday of September, she announced that Room 12 would hold a Backwards Day. "Everything today happens in reverse," she explained. "Even this announcement. Class dismissed!"

Confused, the students stood up and walked toward the door, until Mrs. Abara chuckled and called them back. "In a backwards day, we say goodbye first and hello last," she said.

So they said goodbye to each other and sat down. They wrote the date at the bottom of the page and the title at the top, and Eli tried to read his book from the last page to the first, which spoiled the ending for him.

At nine o'clock, Mrs. Abara wrote a list of palindromes on the board, which are words that read the same forward and backward. "Racecar," she said. "Level. Kayak." Noor added "noon," and Theo proudly offered "madam" before realizing that he had used the wrong number of letters, and the class howled with laughter.

For lunch, they ate dessert first. The cafeteria staff served cookies, then sandwiches, then a single sad carrot, and Eli declared it the best lunch of his life, except for the carrot.

At the end of the day, Mrs. Abara said, "Good morning, everyone." The students yawned, stretched, and answered, "Good morning," as they walked home in the afternoon sun. Nobody forgot that day, and nobody ever got tired of palindromes.

Questions

1. What happened on Backwards Day in Room 12?

_____

_____

2. What is a palindrome?

_____

_____

3. Which palindromes did the class find?

_____

_____

4. What did the students eat first at lunch?

_____

_____

5. Why did Eli spoil the ending for himself?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mrs. Abara say good morning at the end of the day?

_____

_____

Words to know

wordplay: clever or funny use of words
reverse: the opposite way or order
dismissed: told to leave or go home
palindromes: words that read the same forward and backward
cafeteria: a school room where students eat meals

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: _____

Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

Square group

Mrs. Abara adored wordplay, so on the last Tuesday of September, she announced that Room 12 would celebrate a Backwards Day. "Everything today happens in reverse," she explained. "Even this announcement. Class dismissed!"

Bewildered, the students stood up and marched toward the door, until Mrs. Abara chuckled and summoned them back. "On a backwards day, we say goodbye first and hello last," she said.

So they said goodbye to one another and sat down again. They wrote the date at the bottom of the page and the title at the top, and Eli attempted to read his book from the last page to the first, which spoiled the ending for him.

At nine o'clock, Mrs. Abara wrote a list of palindromes on the board, which are words that read the same forward and backward. "Racecar," she said. "Level. Kayak." Noor contributed "noon," and Theo proudly offered "madam" before realizing that he had used the wrong number of letters, and the entire class howled with laughter.

For lunch, they ate dessert first. The cafeteria staff served cookies, then sandwiches, then a single sad carrot, and Eli declared it the best lunch of his life, except for the carrot.

At the end of the day, Mrs. Abara said, "Good morning, everyone." The students yawned, stretched, and answered, "Good morning," as they strolled home in the afternoon sun. Nobody forgot that day, and nobody ever grew tired of palindromes.

Questions

1. What happened on Backwards Day in Room 12?

_____

_____

2. What is a palindrome?

_____

_____

3. Which palindromes did the class discover?

_____

_____

4. What did the students eat first at lunch?

_____

_____

5. Why did Eli spoil the ending for himself?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mrs. Abara say good morning at the end of the day?

_____

_____

Words to know

wordplay: clever or funny use of words
reverse: the opposite way or order
dismissed: told to leave or go home
palindromes: words that read the same forward and backward
cafeteria: a school room where students eat meals

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: Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

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

Circle: Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

Easier · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Everything was done in reverse, such as saying goodbye first and hello last.
2. A word that reads the same forward and backward.
3. Racecar, level, kayak, and noon.
4. Dessert, which was cookies.
5. He read his book from the last page to the first, so he saw the ending right away.
6. It fit the backwards theme, since greetings were reversed in her game.

Triangle: Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

This passage · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. Everything was done in reverse, such as saying goodbye first and hello last.
2. A word that reads the same forward and backward.
3. Racecar, level, kayak, and noon.
4. Dessert, which was cookies.
5. He read his book from the last page to the first, so he read the ending right away.
6. It fit the backwards theme, since greetings were reversed in her game.

Square: Backwards Tuesday in Room 12

Harder · 235 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. Everything was done in reverse, such as saying goodbye first and hello last.
2. A word that reads the same forward and backward.
3. Racecar, level, kayak, and noon.
4. Dessert, which was cookies.
5. He attempted to read his book from the last page to the first, so he came upon the ending immediately.
6. It matched the backwards theme, since all the greetings were reversed in her game.