Name: _____ Date: _____

The Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

Circle group

Marisol had one rule for the first night: nobody crosses the tape. She put a line of blue tape down the middle of the bedroom floor. Her new stepbrother, Teddy, stood in the doorway with his bag.

"Left side is yours," she said. "Right side is mine."

That seemed fair until Tuesday. The closet was on Teddy's side. The only outlet was on hers. Teddy needed the outlet for his headphones. Marisol needed the closet for her shoes. Each morning, one of them tiptoed over the line, and the other one groaned.

On Friday, Marisol's jump-rope trophy fell off the shelf. It landed on Teddy's side. He picked it up, read the little plate, and gave it back. He did not say a word. That night she lay awake. The tape did not feel like a fence now. It felt like a long, quiet fight.

In the morning she pulled up some tape by the closet. She left a gap as wide as a door. She wrote on a card: OPEN FOR SHOES AND SUNSHINE. Teddy read it and grinned. He tore a gap near the outlet. His card said, OPEN FOR CHARGERS.

By Sunday the tape was mostly scraps. They kept one short strip in the middle. A little private space was fair, too.

Questions

1. What did Marisol put down the middle of the floor?

_____

_____

2. Why was the closet a problem?

_____

_____

3. What did Teddy need the outlet for?

_____

_____

4. What happened to the trophy on Friday?

_____

_____

5. Why did the tape feel like a long, quiet fight?

_____

_____

6. Why did they keep one short strip of tape?

_____

_____

Words to know

stepbrother: the son of your parent's new husband or wife
outlet: a place on the wall where you plug in cords
groaned: made a low sound because of being annoyed

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 Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

Triangle group

Marisol had one rule for the first night: nobody crosses the tape. She pressed a strip of blue painter's tape straight down the middle of the bedroom floor. Her new stepbrother, Teddy, watched from the doorway with a duffel bag on his shoulder.

"Left side is yours," she said. "Right side is mine."

That seemed fair until Tuesday. The closet was on Teddy's side, and the only outlet was on hers. Teddy needed the outlet to charge his headphones, and Marisol needed the closet for her shoes. Every morning one of them tiptoed across the line while the other one groaned.

On Friday, Marisol's jump-rope trophy tumbled off the shelf and landed in Teddy's territory. He picked it up, read the little plate, and handed it back without a word. That night she lay awake in the dark. The tape no longer felt like a fence. It felt like a very long, very quiet argument.

In the morning she peeled up a piece of tape beside the closet, leaving a gap as wide as a door. Then she wrote on an index card: OPEN FOR SHOES AND SUNSHINE. Teddy read it, grinned, and tore a gap near the outlet. His card said, OPEN FOR CHARGERS.

By Sunday the tape was mostly scraps. They kept one short strip in the middle of the room, because a little private space was fair too, and because some boundaries are worth keeping when everyone agrees on them.

Questions

1. What did Marisol stick down the middle of the bedroom floor?

_____

_____

2. Why did the closet cause a problem?

_____

_____

3. What did Teddy need the outlet for?

_____

_____

4. What happened to Marisol's trophy on Friday?

_____

5. Why did the tape feel like a long, quiet argument to Marisol?

6. Why did they keep one short strip of tape at the end?

Words to know

stepbrother: the son of your parent's new husband or wife
outlet: a place on the wall where you plug in cords
territory: an area that someone says belongs to them
groaned: made a low sound because of being annoyed
boundaries: lines or limits that mark where something stops

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 Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

Square group

Marisol had established one firm rule for the first night: nobody crosses the tape. She pressed a long strip of blue painter's tape straight down the middle of the bedroom floor, smoothing it flat with her thumb. Her new stepbrother, Teddy, watched from the doorway with a heavy duffel bag hanging from his shoulder.

"Left side is yours," she announced. "Right side is mine."

That arrangement seemed perfectly fair until Tuesday. The closet happened to be on Teddy's side, while the only outlet in the room was on hers. Teddy needed the outlet to charge his headphones, and Marisol needed the closet for her shoes. Every morning, one of them tiptoed across the line while the other groaned loudly.

On Friday, Marisol's jump-rope trophy tumbled off the shelf and landed in Teddy's territory. He picked it up, studied the little plate, and handed it back without a single word. That night she lay awake in the dark, thinking. The tape no longer felt like a fence at all. It felt like a very long, very quiet argument that neither of them knew how to end.

In the morning she peeled up a piece of tape beside the closet, leaving a gap as wide as a doorway. Then she wrote on an index card: OPEN FOR SHOES AND SUNSHINE. Teddy read it, grinned, and tore a gap near the outlet. His card said, OPEN FOR CHARGERS.

By Sunday the tape had been reduced to scraps. They kept one short strip in the middle of the room, because a little private space was fair to both of them, and because some boundaries are worth keeping when everyone has agreed on them.

Questions

1. What did Marisol press down the middle of the bedroom floor?

_____

_____

2. Why did the closet create a problem between them?

_____

_____

3. What did Teddy need the outlet to do?

_____

_____

4. What happened to Marisol's trophy on Friday, and how did Teddy react?

_____

_____

5. Why did the tape feel like a long, quiet argument to Marisol?

_____

_____

6. Why did they decide to keep one short strip of tape in the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

stepbrother: the son of your parent's new husband or wife
outlet: a place on the wall where you plug in cords
territory: an area that someone says belongs to them
groaned: made a low sound because of being annoyed
boundaries: lines or limits that mark where something stops

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 Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

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

Circle: The Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

Easier · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. A line of blue tape.
2. It was on Teddy's side, but Marisol needed it for her shoes.
3. To charge his headphones.
4. It fell onto Teddy's side, and he gave it back.
5. It kept them apart and they did not talk, so the problems went on.
6. They both agreed a little private space was fair.

Triangle: The Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

This passage · 244 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. A strip of blue painter's tape.
2. It was on Teddy's side, but Marisol needed it for her shoes.
3. To charge his headphones.
4. It fell into Teddy's side, and he picked it up and handed it back.
5. It kept them apart and stopped them from talking, so the problems just kept happening.
6. They both agreed that a little private space was fair.

Square: The Blue Tape Line Down the Middle

Harder · 280 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.8

1. A long strip of blue painter's tape.
2. It was on Teddy's side, but Marisol needed it for her shoes.
3. Charge his headphones.
4. It fell into Teddy's territory, and he picked it up and handed it back silently.
5. It kept them apart and prevented them from talking, so the problems kept happening.
6. They both agreed that a little private space was fair.