Name: _____ Date: _____

Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

Circle group

Behind Lio's shop on Prism Street, a small red dragon named Cinder slept inside the glass furnace. He was no bigger than a dog. He kept the fire at just the right heat for making bottles, bowls, and twisted vases. Lio's uncle, the glassblower, said no machine could match Cinder's steady warmth.

One cold January morning, the furnace began to dim. The glass turned thick and lumpy. A bowl cracked as it cooled. Lio's uncle frowned. Cinder lay curled up with his tail over his nose. He would not wake.

Lio knelt by the furnace. "Are you sick?" he asked softly.

Cinder opened one gold eye. "Too quiet," he mumbled. "Dragons need songs to keep our fire bright. No one sings in this shop anymore."

Lio had not noticed. Since winter began, the shop had been silent. He heard only the clank of tools. He took a deep breath and sang the one song he knew. It was a goofy tune about a goose who tried to knit. His uncle heard it. To Lio's surprise, he joined in with a deep, rumbling voice.

The coals flared orange and then white. Cinder stretched. The glass flowed smooth and bright again. After that the shop sang while it worked. The vases came out with colors no one else on Prism Street could match.

Questions

1. Where did Cinder sleep?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the glass when the furnace dimmed?

_____

_____

3. What do dragons need to keep their fire bright?

_____

_____

4. What song did Lio sing?

_____

_____

5. Why was Lio surprised when his uncle sang?

_____

_____

6. Why did the coals flare up after the singing?

_____

_____

Words to know

furnace: a very hot oven used for melting and shaping things
glassblower: a person who shapes melted glass into objects
dim: to grow less bright
steady: staying the same without changing
mumbled: spoke in a low, unclear voice

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: _____

Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

Triangle group

Behind Lio's shop on Prism Street, a small red dragon named Cinder slept inside the glass furnace. He was no bigger than a spaniel, and he kept the fire at exactly the right heat for making bottles, bowls, and long twisted vases. Lio's uncle, the glassblower, often said that no machine in the whole city could match Cinder's steady warmth.

One cold January morning, however, the furnace began to dim. The glass turned thick and lumpy, and Lio's uncle frowned at a bowl that had cracked while it was cooling on the shelf. Cinder lay curled with his tail over his nose and refused to wake.

Lio knelt beside the furnace. "Are you sick?" he asked quietly.

Cinder opened one gold eye. "Too quiet," he mumbled. "Dragons need songs to keep our fire bright. Nobody sings in this shop anymore."

Lio had not noticed that, since the winter started, the shop had been silent except for the clank of tools. He took a deep breath and began the only song he knew, a goofy tune about a goose who tried to knit. His uncle heard it and, to Lio's surprise, joined in with a deep, rumbling voice.

The coals flared up orange and then white. Cinder stretched, and the glass flowed smooth and bright again. From that day on the shop sang while it worked, and the vases came out of the fire with colors no one else on Prism Street could match.

Questions

1. Where did Cinder sleep?

_____

_____

2. What was wrong with the glass when the furnace dimmed?

_____

_____

3. What do dragons need to keep their fire bright, according to Cinder?

_____

_____

4. What song did Lio sing?

_____

_____

5. Why was Lio surprised when his uncle joined in?

_____

_____

6. Why did the furnace flare up after the singing began?

_____

_____

Words to know

furnace: a very hot oven used for melting and shaping things
glassblower: a person who shapes melted glass into objects
dim: to grow less bright
steady: staying the same without changing
mumbled: spoke in a low, unclear voice

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: _____

Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

Square group

Behind Lio's shop on Prism Street, a small red dragon named Cinder slept inside the glass furnace. He was no larger than a spaniel, yet he kept the fire at precisely the right temperature for crafting bottles, bowls, and long twisted vases. Lio's uncle, the glassblower, insisted that no machine in the world could match Cinder's steady warmth.

One bitterly cold January morning, however, the furnace began to dim. The glass turned thick and lumpy, and Lio's uncle frowned at a bowl that had cracked while cooling. Cinder lay curled up with his tail draped over his nose, and he flatly refused to wake.

Lio knelt beside the furnace. "Are you sick?" he asked quietly.

Cinder opened one gold eye. "Too quiet," he mumbled. "Dragons need songs to keep our fire bright, and nobody sings in this shop anymore."

Lio had never noticed. Since the start of winter, the shop had been silent except for the clank of tools. He took a deep breath and began the only song he knew, a goofy tune about a goose who tried to knit. His uncle overheard it and, to Lio's astonishment, joined in with a deep, rumbling voice.

The coals flared orange and then blazing white. Cinder stretched luxuriously, and the glass flowed smooth and bright once more. From that day on the shop sang while it worked, and the vases emerged from the fire in colors that no one else on Prism Street could match.

Questions

1. Where did Cinder sleep?

_____

_____

2. What was wrong with the glass once the furnace dimmed?

_____

_____

3. According to Cinder, what do dragons need to keep their fire bright?

_____

_____

4. What song did Lio sing?

_____

_____

5. Why was Lio astonished when his uncle joined in?

_____

_____

6. Why did the coals blaze up after the singing began?

_____

_____

Words to know

furnace: a very hot oven used for melting and shaping things
glassblower: a person who shapes melted glass into objects
dim: to grow less bright
steady: staying the same without changing
mumbled: spoke in a low, unclear voice

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: Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

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

Circle: Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

Easier · 221 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Inside the glass furnace.
2. It turned thick and lumpy, and a bowl cracked.
3. Songs.
4. A goofy tune about a goose who tried to knit.
5. His uncle had not been singing, and the shop had been silent.
6. Cinder woke and felt strong again because he had songs.

Triangle: Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

This passage · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. Inside the glass furnace.
2. It turned thick and lumpy, and a bowl cracked.
3. Songs.
4. A goofy tune about a goose who tried to knit.
5. His uncle had not been singing, and the shop had been silent.
6. Cinder woke and felt strong again because he had his songs.

Square: Cinder, the Dragon in the Glassblower's Furnace

Harder · 244 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. Inside the glass furnace.
2. It turned thick and lumpy, and a bowl cracked while cooling.
3. Songs.
4. A goofy tune about a goose who tried to knit.
5. His uncle had not been singing, and the shop had been silent all winter.
6. Cinder woke and regained his strength because he had his songs again.