Name: _____ Date: _____

Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

Circle group

Cousin Rafi came to stay for two weeks. Imani had a list of fun things to show him: the creek, the skate park, and the ice cream stand. Then it began to rain. It rained for four days in a row. Imani flopped on the sofa and sighed.

Rafi sat on the porch steps and watched the sky like a movie. "At home, it hardly ever rains," he said. "Some summers we get no good storm at all."

"Well, you can have mine," Imani said.

Rafi laughed. He got an empty pickle jar from the recycling bin. He asked for a ruler and some tape. He taped the ruler up the side of the jar. He set it at the edge of the porch, where the roof would not drip on it. "Now we can measure the rain," he said.

Imani rolled her eyes, but she wrote the first number in a notebook. Soon she was checking the jar every hour. Rafi drew a chart. The rain fell fastest in the early afternoon. It almost stopped at supper.

On the fifth morning the sun came out. Imani looked at the wet yard and felt a little sad. "Let's keep the jar," she said. "Rain is more fun when you count it."

Rafi grinned. "And the creek will be full now."

Questions

1. How long did it rain at the start of the visit?

_____

_____

2. Why did Rafi like the rain?

_____

_____

3. What did Rafi use to make the rain gauge?

_____

_____

4. Why did they put the jar at the edge of the porch?

_____

_____

5. How did Imani's feelings about the rain change?

_____

_____

6. Why did Rafi say the creek would be full?

_____

_____

Words to know

sighed: let out a long breath because you are bored or sad
measure: to find out how much or how big something is
chart: a drawing that shows numbers in an easy 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: _____

Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

Triangle group

When Cousin Rafi flew in for a two-week visit, Imani had a long list of things to show him. There was the creek, the skate park, and the ice cream stand with forty flavors. Unfortunately, it rained for four days straight, and Imani flopped on the sofa and sighed at the ceiling.

Rafi, however, sat on the porch steps and watched the sky as if it were a movie. He explained that it hardly ever rains where he lives. Some summers pass without a single good storm. "Well, you are welcome to mine," Imani muttered.

Rafi laughed, then fetched an empty pickle jar from the recycling bin and asked for a ruler and some tape. He fastened the ruler up the side of the jar and set it at the edge of the porch, where the roof would not drip into it. Now they could measure exactly how much water came down.

Imani rolled her eyes, but she wrote the first number in a notebook anyway. Before long she was checking the jar every hour while Rafi sketched a chart. They discovered that the rain fell fastest in the early afternoon and nearly stopped around suppertime.

On the fifth morning the sun finally appeared, and Imani gazed at the dripping yard with a strange feeling of disappointment. "We should keep the jar," she said. "Rain is more interesting when you count it." Rafi grinned. The creek would be completely full by now.

Questions

1. How long did the rain last at the start of Rafi's visit?

_____

_____

2. Why did Rafi enjoy watching the rain?

_____

_____

3. What did Rafi use to make the rain gauge?

_____

_____

4. Why did they put the jar at the edge of the porch?

_____

_____

5. How did Imani's feelings about the rain change?

_____

_____

6. Why did Rafi say the creek would be full?

_____

_____

Words to know

sighed: let out a long breath because you are bored or sad
muttered: said something in a low voice, not very clearly
fetched: went and brought something back
measure: to find out how much or how big something is
chart: a drawing that shows numbers in an easy 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: _____

Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

Square group

When Cousin Rafi flew in for a two-week visit, Imani had prepared an ambitious list of things to show him, including the creek, the skate park, and the ice cream stand that advertised forty flavors. Unfortunately, it rained for four straight days, and Imani flopped dramatically on the sofa and sighed at the ceiling.

Rafi, by contrast, sat on the porch steps and studied the sky with the fascination other people reserve for a movie. He explained that it hardly ever rains in the region where he lives. Some summers pass without a single memorable storm. "Well, you are more than welcome to mine," Imani muttered.

Rafi laughed, then fetched an empty pickle jar from the recycling bin and requested a ruler and some tape. He fastened the ruler along the side of the jar and carefully set it at the edge of the porch, where the roof would not drip into it and spoil the results. Now they could measure exactly how much water was falling from the clouds.

Imani rolled her eyes, but she recorded the first number in a notebook anyway. Before long she was checking the jar every single hour while Rafi sketched an elaborate chart. They discovered that the rain fell hardest in the early afternoon and nearly stopped around suppertime.

On the fifth morning the sun finally reappeared, and Imani gazed at the dripping yard with a surprising feeling of disappointment. "We should definitely keep the jar," she said. "Rain is considerably more interesting when you count it." Rafi grinned and reminded her that the creek would be completely full by now.

Questions

1. How long did the rain continue at the start of Rafi's visit?

_____

_____

2. Why did Rafi enjoy watching the rain so much?

_____

_____

3. What materials did Rafi use to build the rain gauge?

_____

_____

4. Why did they place the jar at the edge of the porch?

_____

_____

5. How did Imani's attitude toward the rain change over the week?

_____

_____

6. Why did Rafi say the creek would be full?

_____

_____

Words to know

sighed: let out a long breath because you are bored or sad
muttered: said something in a low voice, not very clearly
fetched: went and brought something back
measure: to find out how much or how big something is
chart: a drawing that shows numbers in an easy 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: Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

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

Circle: Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

Easier · 220 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. Four days in a row.
2. It hardly ever rains where he lives.
3. A pickle jar, a ruler, and tape.
4. The roof would not drip into it.
5. She went from bored to interested.
6. The rain had filled it, so it would be fun to visit.

Triangle: Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

This passage · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. Four days in a row.
2. It hardly ever rains where he lives.
3. An empty pickle jar, a ruler, and tape.
4. The roof would not drip into it and spoil the measurement.
5. She went from bored and grumpy to curious and interested.
6. All the rain had filled it, so it was a good time to visit it.

Square: Cousin Rafi and the Jar on the Porch

Harder · 269 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.6

1. Four days straight.
2. It hardly ever rains where he lives.
3. An empty pickle jar, a ruler, and a strip of tape.
4. The roof would not drip into it and spoil the measurement.
5. She went from bored and grumpy to curious and interested.
6. All that rain had filled it, so it was a good time to visit.