Name: _____ Date: _____

Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

Circle group

People say that in a dry valley called Parch Hollow, Hester Pruitt grew clouds. She grew them like corn. Each spring she planted fog seeds in a long row. By June the sky over her fence was full of fat, fluffy clouds. Some were so thick that she sheared them like sheep. She put the wool in pillows.

Her neighbors thought she was silly. Then came the summer of the long drought. Every field turned brown. Every well ran low. Hester went out to her pasture and whistled twice. The whole herd of clouds floated over the fence.

Then trouble began. Hester had only fed them morning mist. A hungry cloud is a grumpy cloud. They all rained at once on the Hendersons' tomato patch. The tomatoes floated down the road. The next farm stayed as dry as a cracker.

Hester scratched her chin. She got a long stick and a loud bell. She worked like a shepherd. She put one cloud over each farm. She gave each cloud a little mist so it would drizzle softly.

By September the valley was green. People still tell the story. If you hear a bell in the sky on a summer night, it is Hester with her herd.

Questions

1. What did Hester Pruitt grow on her farm?

_____

_____

2. What did she do with the thick clouds she sheared?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong when the clouds all rained at once?

_____

_____

4. How did Hester fix the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the clouds pour all at once?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

drought: a long time with very little rain
pasture: a grassy field where animals feed
herd: a group of animals that stay together

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: _____

Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

Triangle group

They say that in the dry valley of Parch Hollow, Hester Pruitt grew clouds the way other farmers grow corn. Every spring she planted a handful of fog seeds in a long straight row, and by June the sky above her fence was crowded with fat, fluffy clouds. Some were so thick that she sheared them like sheep and stuffed the wool into pillows.

Her neighbors thought she was out of her mind until the summer of the long drought. Every field in the valley turned brown, and every well went low. Hester walked out to her pasture, whistled twice, and the whole herd of clouds came drifting over the fence.

That was when the trouble started. Hester had never fed them anything but morning mist, and a hungry cloud is a grumpy cloud. They all rained at once on the Hendersons' tomato patch, and the tomatoes floated away down the road. Meanwhile, the next farm over stayed as dry as a cracker.

Hester scratched her chin. Then she got out a long stick and a loud bell and went to work like a shepherd. She herded one cloud over each farm, and she gave every cloud a small ration of mist so it would drizzle gently instead of pouring.

By September, the valley was green again. Folks still tell the story, and they still say that if you hear a bell ringing in the sky on a summer evening, it is only Hester, keeping her herd in line.

Questions

1. What did Hester Pruitt grow on her farm?

_____

_____

2. What did she do with the thick clouds that she sheared?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong when the clouds all rained at once?

_____

_____

4. How did Hester fix the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the clouds pour all at once?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

drought: a long time with very little rain
pasture: a grassy field where animals feed
herd: a group of animals that stay together
ration: a small, fixed amount of something

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: _____

Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

Square group

They say that in the parched valley of Parch Hollow, Hester Pruitt cultivated clouds the way other farmers cultivate corn. Every spring she planted a handful of fog seeds in a long, straight row, and by June the sky above her fence was crowded with enormous, fluffy clouds. Some grew so thick that she sheared them like sheep and stuffed the soft wool into pillows.

Her neighbors suspected she had lost her mind until the summer of the terrible drought. Every field in the valley turned brown, and every well sank dangerously low. Hester marched out to her pasture, whistled twice, and the entire herd of clouds came drifting obediently over the fence.

That was when the real trouble began. Hester had never fed them anything except morning mist, and a hungry cloud is a grumpy cloud. All of them rained at once on the Hendersons' tomato patch, and the tomatoes floated away down the road, while the farm next door remained as dry as a cracker.

Hester scratched her chin thoughtfully. Then she fetched a long stick and a loud bell and set to work like a shepherd. She guided one cloud over each farm, and she gave every cloud a small ration of mist so that it would drizzle gently instead of pouring.

By September the whole valley was green again. Folks still tell the story, and they insist that if you hear a bell ringing high in the sky on a summer evening, it is only Hester, keeping her herd in line.

Questions

1. What did Hester Pruitt grow on her farm?

_____

_____

2. What did she do with the thick clouds that she sheared?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong when the clouds all rained at once?

_____

_____

4. How did Hester fix the problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the clouds pour all at once?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

drought: a long time with very little rain
pasture: a grassy field where animals feed
herd: a group of animals that stay together
ration: a small, fixed amount of something

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: Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

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

Circle: Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

Easier · 206 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Clouds, which she grew from fog seeds.
2. She put the wool in pillows.
3. A tomato patch flooded and the next farm stayed dry.
4. She put one cloud over each farm and gave each a little mist so it would drizzle.
5. They were hungry and grumpy because they had only been fed morning mist.
6. It has wild exaggeration, like growing and shearing clouds.

Triangle: Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

This passage · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. Clouds, which she grew from fog seeds.
2. She stuffed the wool into pillows.
3. The tomato patch flooded while the next farm stayed dry.
4. She herded one cloud over each farm and gave each a little mist so it would drizzle gently.
5. They were hungry and grumpy because Hester had only fed them morning mist.
6. It is full of wild exaggeration, such as farming and shearing clouds.

Square: Hester Pruitt's Cloud Farm

Harder · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.6

1. Clouds, which she grew from fog seeds.
2. She stuffed the soft wool into pillows.
3. The tomato patch flooded while the farm next door stayed dry.
4. She guided one cloud over each farm and gave each a small ration of mist so it would drizzle gently.
5. They were hungry and grumpy because Hester had fed them nothing except morning mist.
6. It is packed with outrageous exaggeration, such as farming, shearing and herding clouds.