Name: _____ Date: _____

Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

Circle group

Ordo was the hall monitor robot at Fairbanks Middle School. He had one blue light on his head and two long arms. His memory held exactly forty-two rules. The first rule was simple: No running in the halls.

Ordo followed his rules perfectly. If a student ran, a polite voice came from his speaker. "Please walk, please walk." Most students rolled their eyes. But they walked.

One afternoon the fire alarm rang. Ordo's blue light blinked. His rules said to walk. But the alarm made the students hurry to the doors. A group of sixth graders stopped in the hall. Ordo was in the way. He kept saying, "Please walk, please walk."

"Ordo, move!" shouted a girl named Priya. "We have to go outside now!"

Ordo's circuits whirred. For the first time, two rules pulled in opposite ways. One said to walk. Another rule, at the bottom of his list, said to keep students safe. After a moment he knew that safety mattered more. He rolled aside. He held his arms out to point to the exit. "Please hurry and follow me," he said.

It was only a drill, and everyone got outside fast. Later Priya helped Ordo add a forty-third rule. Rules are for helping people, so sometimes there are exceptions. He kept it next to a small star in his memory.

Questions

1. How many rules did Ordo have at first?

_____

_____

2. What was his first rule?

_____

_____

3. What happened when the fire alarm rang?

_____

_____

4. What was the forty-third rule?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ordo's circuits whirr?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ordo let the students hurry?

_____

_____

Words to know

monitor: a person or machine that watches to make sure rules are followed
exception: a time when a rule does not apply
drill: a practice of what to do in an emergency

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: _____

Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

Triangle group

Ordo was the hall monitor robot at Fairbanks Middle School. He had one blue light on his head, two long arms, and a list of exactly forty-two rules stored in his memory. The first rule on his list was simple: No running in the halls.

Ordo followed his rules perfectly. If a student ran, a polite voice came from his speaker. "Please walk, please walk." Most of the students rolled their eyes, but they walked.

One afternoon the fire alarm began to ring. Ordo's blue light blinked in confusion. His rules said to walk, but the alarm made the students hurry toward the doors. A group of sixth graders hesitated in the hallway, because Ordo was blocking the way and repeating, "Please walk, please walk."

"Ordo, move!" shouted a girl named Priya. "We have to go outside now!"

Ordo's circuits whirred. For the first time, two rules pulled in opposite directions. One said to walk. Another, buried at the bottom of his list, said to keep students safe. After a moment he realized that safety mattered more. He rolled aside and held his arms wide to point at the exit. "Please hurry and follow me," he said.

It turned out to be a drill, and everyone got outside quickly. Afterward Priya helped Ordo add a forty-third rule: rules are for helping people, so sometimes there are exceptions. He kept the rule next to a small star in his memory.

Questions

1. How many rules did Ordo have at the start?

_____

_____

2. What was the first rule on his list?

_____

_____

3. What happened when the fire alarm rang?

_____

_____

4. What was the forty-third rule?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ordo's circuits whirr when the alarm rang?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ordo decide to let the students run?

_____

_____

Words to know

monitor: a person or machine that watches to make sure rules are followed
hesitated: waited a moment because of doubt
exception: a time when a rule does not apply
drill: a practice of what to do in an emergency
buried: hidden far down underneath other things

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: _____

Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

Square group

Ordo was the hall monitor robot at Fairbanks Middle School. He had a single blue light on top of his head, two long arms, and a list of exactly forty-two rules stored in his memory. The very first rule on his list was simple and firm: No running in the halls.

Ordo followed his rules flawlessly. Whenever a student broke into a run, a courteous voice emerged from his speaker. "Please walk, please walk." Most of the students rolled their eyes, but they walked.

One afternoon the fire alarm began to ring. Ordo's blue light blinked in bewilderment. His rules instructed him to walk, yet the alarm sent the students hurrying toward the doors. A group of sixth graders hesitated in the hallway because Ordo was blocking their path and repeating, "Please walk, please walk."

"Ordo, move!" shouted a girl named Priya. "We have to get outside right now!"

Ordo's circuits whirred. For the first time in his career, two of his rules pulled in opposite directions. One told him to walk. Another, buried at the very bottom of his list, told him to keep students safe. After a moment he concluded that safety mattered far more. He rolled aside and stretched out his arms to point toward the exit. "Please hurry and follow me," he said.

It turned out to be only a drill, and everyone reached the outdoors quickly. Afterward Priya helped Ordo add a forty-third rule: rules exist to help people, so sometimes there are exceptions. He stored it beside a small star in his memory.

Questions

1. How many rules did Ordo have stored in his memory at the start?

_____

_____

2. What was the first rule on his list?

_____

_____

3. What happened when the fire alarm began to ring?

_____

_____

4. What was the forty-third rule?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ordo's circuits whirr when the alarm rang?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ordo decide to let the students hurry?

_____

_____

Words to know

monitor: a person or machine that watches to make sure rules are followed
hesitated: waited a moment because of doubt
exception: a time when a rule does not apply
drill: a practice of what to do in an emergency
buried: hidden far down underneath other things

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: Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

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

Circle: Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

Easier · 225 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Forty-two.
2. No running in the halls.
3. Students hurried to the doors while Ordo kept saying to walk.
4. Rules are for helping people, so sometimes there are exceptions.
5. Two of his rules pulled in opposite ways, and he had to choose.
6. He knew that keeping students safe mattered more than walking.

Triangle: Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

This passage · 241 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. Forty-two.
2. No running in the halls.
3. Students hurried toward the doors while Ordo kept telling them to walk.
4. Rules are for helping people, so sometimes there are exceptions.
5. Two of his rules pointed in opposite directions, and he had to choose.
6. He understood that keeping students safe mattered more than the walking rule.

Square: Ordo the Hall Monitor and the Rule About Running

Harder · 261 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Exactly forty-two.
2. No running in the halls.
3. Students hurried toward the doors while Ordo blocked the way and kept saying to walk.
4. Rules exist to help people, so sometimes there are exceptions.
5. Two of his rules pulled in opposite directions and he had to choose between them.
6. He concluded that keeping students safe mattered more than the walking rule.