Name: _____ Date: _____

Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

Circle group

Mr. Calloway bought Rusk the robot scarecrow at the county fair. Rusk had a barrel for a body and copper arms. He had a floppy straw hat. He looked more friendly than fierce. Every morning he marched to the middle of the cornfield. He raised both arms and shouted, "Boo!"

The crows did not care. They landed on his hat. They ate corn right under his nose.

"I am not scaring anyone," Rusk said sadly that night. "My circuits say I should be scary."

Mr. Calloway scratched his chin. "Maybe scaring is not the only way to guard a field," he said.

The next morning Rusk stood still and listened. He saw that the crows did not eat only corn. They also pecked the beetles that chewed the leaves. So Rusk tried something new. He hummed a low, steady tune. He waved gently and did not shout. When the crows stayed, he showed them where the beetles hid, near the damp roots at the edge of the rows.

Soon the crows were eating bugs and leaving most of the corn. The harvest that fall was the biggest Mr. Calloway had ever seen. Rusk never learned to scare anything. But the crows still came each morning to sit on his hat and hear his tune.

Questions

1. Where did Mr. Calloway get Rusk?

_____

_____

2. What did Rusk do each morning at first?

_____

_____

3. What did the crows peck besides corn?

_____

_____

4. How did Rusk change how he guarded the field?

_____

_____

5. Why did the crows not mind Rusk at first?

_____

_____

6. Why was the harvest so big?

_____

_____

Words to know

scarecrow: a figure put in a field to keep birds away
fierce: wild and scary
circuits: the wired paths that carry power inside a machine
harvest: the crop gathered from a field
guard: to protect something from harm

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: _____

Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

Triangle group

Mr. Calloway bought Rusk the robot scarecrow at the county fair. Rusk had a barrel for a body, a pair of copper arms, and a floppy straw hat that made him look more friendly than fierce. Every morning he marched to the middle of the cornfield, raised both arms, and shouted, "Boo!"

The crows were not impressed in the slightest, and they landed on his hat and ate corn right under his nose while he shouted.

"I am not frightening anyone," Rusk said sadly that evening. "My circuits say I should be scary."

Mr. Calloway scratched his chin thoughtfully and suggested that frightening animals might not be the only way to guard a field.

The next morning Rusk stood still and listened. He noticed that the crows were not eating only the corn. They also pecked at the beetles that chewed the leaves. So Rusk tried something new. He hummed a low, steady tune, and he waved gently instead of shouting. When the crows stayed, he showed them the best places to find beetles, near the damp roots at the edge of the rows.

Soon the crows were eating the bugs and leaving most of the corn alone, so the harvest that autumn was the biggest that Mr. Calloway had ever seen. Rusk never learned to frighten anything, but the crows still came every morning to sit on his hat and hear his tune.

Questions

1. Where did Mr. Calloway get Rusk?

_____

_____

2. What did Rusk do each morning at first?

_____

_____

3. What else did the crows peck at besides corn?

_____

_____

4. How did Rusk change his way of guarding the field?

_____

_____

5. Why did the crows ignore Rusk at first?

_____

_____

6. Why was the harvest so big that autumn?

_____

_____

Words to know

scarecrow: a figure put in a field to keep birds away
fierce: wild and scary
circuits: the wired paths that carry power inside a machine
harvest: the crop gathered from a field
guard: to protect something from harm

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: _____

Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

Square group

Mr. Calloway purchased Rusk the robot scarecrow at the county fair. Rusk had a barrel for a body, a pair of gleaming copper arms, and a floppy straw hat that made him look far more friendly than fierce. Every morning he marched to the middle of the cornfield, raised both arms high above his head, and bellowed, "Boo!"

The crows were thoroughly unimpressed by this performance, and they calmly settled on his hat and gobbled corn directly beneath his nose while he continued to bellow.

"I am not frightening anyone," Rusk said mournfully that evening. "My circuits insist that I should be scary."

Mr. Calloway scratched his chin thoughtfully. "Perhaps frightening the animals is not the only way to guard a field," he said, considering the situation carefully.

The next morning Rusk stood perfectly still and listened. He noticed that the crows were not eating only the corn. They were also pecking at the beetles that chewed the leaves. So Rusk tried something different. He hummed a low, steady tune and waved gently instead of shouting. When the crows lingered, he showed them the best places to find beetles, near the damp roots at the edge of the rows.

Before long the crows were feasting on the bugs and leaving most of the corn undisturbed, so the harvest that autumn was the most impressive that Mr. Calloway had ever seen. Rusk never did learn to frighten anything, but the crows still arrived every morning to perch on his hat and listen to his tune.

Questions

1. Where did Mr. Calloway purchase Rusk?

_____

_____

2. What did Rusk do every morning at first?

_____

_____

3. What else were the crows pecking at besides the corn?

_____

_____

4. How did Rusk change his method of guarding the field?

_____

_____

5. Why did the crows ignore Rusk at first?

_____

_____

6. Why was the harvest so large that autumn?

_____

_____

Words to know

scarecrow: a figure put in a field to keep birds away
fierce: wild and scary
circuits: the wired paths that carry power inside a machine
harvest: the crop gathered from a field
guard: to protect something from harm

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: Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

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

Circle: Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

Easier · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. At the county fair.
2. He raised his arms and shouted "Boo!" in the field.
3. Beetles that chewed the leaves.
4. He hummed, waved gently, and showed the crows the beetles.
5. He looked friendly and was not really scary.
6. The crows ate the beetles that harm corn and left most of the corn.

Triangle: Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

This passage · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. At the county fair.
2. He marched to the middle of the field, raised his arms, and shouted "Boo!"
3. Beetles that chewed the leaves.
4. He hummed, waved gently, and showed the crows where the beetles were.
5. His hat and friendly look did not scare them, and he was not really frightening.
6. The crows ate the beetles that harm the corn and left most of the corn alone.

Square: Rusk the Scarecrow Who Frightened Nothing

Harder · 254 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. At the county fair.
2. He marched to the middle of the field, raised his arms, and bellowed "Boo!"
3. The beetles that chewed the leaves.
4. He hummed, waved gently, and led the crows to the best places to find beetles.
5. His friendly look and hat did not frighten them, and he was not truly scary.
6. The crows ate the beetles that damage the corn and left most of the corn alone.