Name: _____ Date: _____

Saving the Seat on Bus 14

Circle group

Zoe's best friend Pia went to stay with her grandmother for a month. The third seat on Bus 14 sat empty each morning. Zoe put her backpack on it. She told herself a backpack was a fine seatmate.

On Tuesday, a new boy named Clem got on the bus. He had a trombone case almost as tall as he was. The bus was nearly full. He stopped, looked at the backpack, and looked at Zoe.

"Sorry," she said. "It's saved."

Clem nodded and sat across the aisle. He hugged the case. All the way to school the case bumped his knees. Zoe tried not to feel bad.

The next day he was there again. He took out a crossword puzzle and said, "Seven letters, a kind of storm, starts with B."

"Blizzard," Zoe said before she could stop herself.

He smiled and wrote it in. By Friday they were doing the puzzle together across the aisle, one clue at a time.

When Pia came home, Zoe was nervous. But Pia grinned at the empty seat and slid in. She saw the puzzle. "Who's the new kid?" she asked. Zoe waved Clem over to the seat in front of them. He turned around to share the crossword.

"I saved a seat for you," Zoe told Pia, "and I think I saved one for him too."

Questions

1. Why was the seat empty?

_____

_____

2. What did Clem carry onto the bus?

_____

_____

3. What did Zoe say when Clem looked at the seat?

_____

_____

4. What was the answer to Clem's clue?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zoe try not to feel bad about saying no to Clem?

_____

_____

6. What did Zoe mean by saying she saved a seat for Clem too?

_____

_____

Words to know

seatmate: the person who sits beside you
aisle: the narrow path between rows of seats
crossword: a word puzzle in which you fit answers into a grid
nervous: a little afraid or worried about what will happen

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: _____

Saving the Seat on Bus 14

Triangle group

Zoe's best friend Pia had gone to stay with her grandmother for an entire month, and the third seat on Bus 14 sat empty every single morning. Zoe set her backpack on it and told herself that a backpack was a perfectly respectable seatmate.

On Tuesday, a new boy named Clem climbed aboard, carrying a trombone case that was almost as tall as he was. The bus was nearly full, so he hesitated, glanced at the backpack, and then looked at Zoe. "Sorry," she said flatly. "It's saved."

Clem nodded and settled into the seat across the aisle, hugging the case in his arms, and all the way to school it bumped against his knees. Zoe tried hard not to feel guilty about it.

The next day he was there again, and this time he pulled out a crossword puzzle and muttered that he needed seven letters for a type of storm, starting with B. "Blizzard," Zoe blurted before she could stop herself. He smiled and penciled it in, and by Friday they were solving the puzzle together across the aisle, one clue at a time.

When Pia finally came home, Zoe felt nervous. But Pia grinned at the empty seat, slid in beside her, and noticed the puzzle. "Who's the new kid?" she asked. Zoe waved Clem over to the seat in front of them, and he turned around to share the crossword.

"I saved a seat for you," Zoe told Pia, "and I think I accidentally saved one for him too."

Questions

1. Why was the seat on Bus 14 empty?

_____

_____

2. What did Clem carry onto the bus?

_____

_____

3. What did Zoe say when Clem looked at the seat?

_____

_____

4. What was the answer to Clem's crossword clue?

_____

5. Why did Zoe try not to feel bad about turning Clem away?

6. What did Zoe mean when she said she had accidentally saved a seat for Clem?

Words to know

seatmate: the person who sits beside you
hesitated: paused because you were not sure what to do
aisle: the narrow path between rows of seats
crossword: a word puzzle in which you fit answers into a grid
nervous: a little afraid or worried about what will happen

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: _____

Saving the Seat on Bus 14

Square group

Zoe's best friend Pia had gone to stay with her grandmother for an entire month, and the third seat on Bus 14 sat conspicuously empty every single morning. Zoe set her backpack on it and told herself that a backpack was a perfectly respectable seatmate.

On Tuesday, a new boy named Clem climbed aboard, lugging a trombone case that was almost as tall as he was. The bus was nearly full, so he hesitated, glanced at the backpack, and then looked uncertainly at Zoe. "Sorry," she said flatly. "It's saved."

Clem nodded and settled into the seat across the aisle, hugging the enormous case in his arms, and all the way to school it bumped against his knees. Zoe tried hard not to feel guilty about it.

The next day he was there again, and this time he pulled out a crossword puzzle and muttered that he needed seven letters for a type of storm, beginning with B. "Blizzard," Zoe blurted before she could stop herself. He smiled and penciled it in, and by Friday they were solving the puzzle together across the aisle, one clue at a time.

When Pia finally came home, Zoe felt nervous about how the reunion would go. But Pia grinned at the empty seat, slid in beside her, and noticed the puzzle. "Who's the new kid?" she asked. Zoe waved Clem over to the seat in front of them, and he turned around to share the crossword.

"I saved a seat for you," Zoe told Pia, "and I think I accidentally saved one for him too."

Questions

1. Why did the third seat on Bus 14 sit empty every morning?

_____

_____

2. What was Clem lugging onto the bus?

_____

_____

3. What did Zoe tell Clem when he looked at the seat?

_____

_____

4. What was the answer to Clem's crossword clue?

_____

_____

5. Why did Zoe try hard not to feel guilty about turning Clem away?

_____

_____

6. What did Zoe mean when she said she had accidentally saved a seat for Clem?

_____

_____

Words to know

seatmate: the person who sits beside you
hesitated: paused because you were not sure what to do
aisle: the narrow path between rows of seats
crossword: a word puzzle in which you fit answers into a grid
nervous: a little afraid or worried about what will happen

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: Saving the Seat on Bus 14

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

Circle: Saving the Seat on Bus 14

Easier · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Pia was away at her grandmother's for a month.
2. A trombone case almost as tall as he was.
3. That it was saved.
4. Blizzard.
5. He had to sit holding his big case, and she felt guilty.
6. She had made room for a new friend without planning to.

Triangle: Saving the Seat on Bus 14

This passage · 252 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. Pia was away at her grandmother's for a month.
2. A trombone case almost as tall as he was.
3. That it was saved.
4. Blizzard.
5. She felt guilty because he had to sit holding his big case.
6. She had made room for a new friend without planning to.

Square: Saving the Seat on Bus 14

Harder · 261 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.4

1. Pia was away at her grandmother's for a month.
2. A trombone case almost as tall as he was.
3. That it was saved.
4. Blizzard.
5. He had to sit holding his big case, and she knew it was uncomfortable for him.
6. She had made room for a new friend without planning to.