Name: _____ Date: _____

The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

Circle group

Old Hobb the badger had the only lantern in Thistle Wood. It was a tin lantern with a bright candle. He lent it to neighbors who had to go out after dark. His rule was simple: bring it back by sunrise.

One night, a young badger named Pip borrowed it. She went to visit her sick aunt on the far side of the hill. She promised to return it by morning. But her aunt's cough was bad. Pip stayed to boil herbs and tuck in blankets. The sun came up, and Pip was still far away.

She was scared. Hobb was kind, but a rule was a rule. She thought about hiding the lantern behind a rock and saying nothing. Then she remembered how Hobb had trusted her.

Pip ran home as fast as she could. At Hobb's door, she gasped. "I am late," she said. "My aunt needed me. I am very sorry."

Hobb looked at the lantern, then at her tired face. "You came back and told the truth," he said. "That matters more than the hour. Next time, send a message with a swallow."

Pip nodded. She felt lighter, as if she had put down a heavy basket.

Questions

1. What was Hobb's rule about the lantern?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pip borrow the lantern?

_____

_____

3. Why was Pip late?

_____

_____

4. What did Pip think about doing before she remembered Hobb's trust?

_____

_____

5. Why did Hobb forgive Pip?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pip feel lighter at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

lantern: a lamp inside a case that can be carried
herbs: plants used for flavor or to help people feel better
swallow: a small, fast bird with a forked tail

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: _____

The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

Triangle group

Old Hobb the badger owned the only lantern in Thistle Wood, a tin lantern with a bright candle that he lent to neighbors who had to travel after dark, and his rule was that it must be brought back by sunrise. One night, a young badger named Pip borrowed it to visit her sick aunt on the far side of the hill, promising to return it by morning. But the aunt's cough was bad. And Pip stayed to boil herbs and tuck in the blankets, so the sun came up while she was still far away.

She was frightened, because Hobb was a kind badger but a rule was a rule. For a moment she thought about leaving the lantern behind a rock and pretending that she had never borrowed it, but then she remembered how much Hobb had trusted her. Pip ran home as fast as her short legs could carry her. And when she reached his door she was gasping. She told him that she was late, that her aunt had needed her, and that she was very sorry.

Hobb studied the lantern and then her tired face. He said that she had come back and told the truth. And that this mattered more to him than the hour. Next time, he suggested, she could send a message with a swallow, and he would understand. Pip nodded, feeling lighter than she had all morning, as if she had put down a heavy basket.

Questions

1. What was Hobb's rule about the lantern?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pip borrow the lantern?

_____

_____

3. Why was Pip late returning it?

_____

_____

4. What did Pip think about doing before she remembered Hobb's trust?

_____

_____

5. Why did Hobb forgive Pip?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pip feel lighter at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

lantern: a lamp inside a case that can be carried
herbs: plants used for flavor or to help people feel better
frightened: feeling scared
gasping: breathing in quickly because you are out of breath
swallow: a small, fast bird with a forked tail

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: _____

The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

Square group

Old Hobb the badger owned the only lantern in the whole of Thistle Wood, a sturdy tin lantern fitted with a bright candle that he generously lent to any neighbor who had to travel after dark, and his rule was perfectly simple: it must be returned by sunrise. One night, a young badger named Pip borrowed it so that she could visit her ailing aunt on the far side of the hill, and she solemnly promised to bring it back by morning. But her aunt's cough was severe. And Pip lingered to boil soothing herbs and tuck the blankets around her, so the sun rose while she was still miles from home.

She was frightened, because Hobb was a considerate badger but a rule was still a rule. For a moment she considered hiding the lantern behind a rock and pretending that she had never borrowed it. But then she remembered the faith that Hobb had placed in her. Pip raced home as fast as her short legs could carry her, and when she reached his door she was gasping for breath. She confessed that she was late, that her aunt had needed her, and that she was truly sorry.

Hobb examined the lantern and then her exhausted face. He told her that she had come back and told him the truth. And that this mattered far more to him than the hour. In the future, he suggested, she should send word with a swallow, and he would completely understand. Pip nodded, feeling lighter than she had all morning, as though she had finally set down a heavy basket.

Questions

1. What was Hobb's rule about lending the lantern?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pip borrow the lantern?

_____

_____

3. Why was Pip late returning it?

_____

_____

4. What did Pip consider doing before she remembered the faith Hobb had placed in her?

_____

_____

5. Why did Hobb forgive Pip so readily?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pip feel lighter at the end of the story?

_____

_____

Words to know

lantern: a lamp inside a case that can be carried
herbs: plants used for flavor or to help people feel better
frightened: feeling scared
gasping: breathing in quickly because you are out of breath
swallow: a small, fast bird with a forked tail

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: The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

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

Circle: The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

Easier · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. It had to be brought back by sunrise.
2. To visit her sick aunt on the far side of the hill.
3. She stayed to boil herbs and tuck in blankets for her aunt.
4. Hiding the lantern behind a rock and saying nothing.
5. She came back and told the truth, which mattered more to him than the hour.
6. She had been honest, so she no longer carried the worry of hiding something.

Triangle: The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

This passage · 245 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.8

1. It had to be brought back by sunrise.
2. To visit her sick aunt on the far side of the hill.
3. She stayed to boil herbs and tuck in blankets for her aunt.
4. Leaving the lantern behind a rock and pretending she had never borrowed it.
5. She came back and told the truth, which mattered more to him than being on time.
6. She had been honest, so she no longer carried the worry of hiding something.

Square: The Badger's Borrowed Lantern

Harder · 269 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.4

1. It had to be returned by sunrise.
2. To visit her ailing aunt on the far side of the hill.
3. She lingered to boil soothing herbs and tuck the blankets around her aunt.
4. Hiding the lantern behind a rock and pretending she had never borrowed it.
5. She returned and told the truth, which mattered far more to him than the hour.
6. She had been honest, so she was no longer burdened by the worry of hiding something.