Name: _____ Date: _____

The Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

Circle group

Nadia found the bottle bobbing in the creek behind her house on a quiet Wednesday. Inside was a rolled note. The handwriting was her own. At the top it said, "Sent from next Tuesday. Read me before Monday night."

Nadia's heart thumped as she unrolled the paper. Her future self had written three short lines. The first said, "The science fair table wobbles. Bring a folded piece of cardboard." The second said, "Do not paint the volcano until the glue is dry." The third said, "Tell Mr. Okafor the thing you are nervous about. He will help."

She read it twice. The science fair was next Tuesday. She had planned to paint her model volcano on Monday night. She had not told anyone she was nervous about talking to a crowd.

Nadia chose to follow the note, even though she did not know how it worked. She let the glue dry overnight. She folded a square of cardboard and put it in her backpack. On Thursday she asked her teacher for help. Mr. Okafor said to practice her talk on index cards. He listened to it twice.

On Tuesday the table did wobble. The cardboard fixed it in a second. Her volcano looked perfect and her talk went well. That night Nadia wrote a note of her own. She put it in the same bottle and set it in the creek for a girl in the future who might need it.

Questions

1. Where did Nadia find the bottle?

_____

_____

2. Whose handwriting was on the note?

_____

_____

3. What three things did the note tell her to do?

_____

_____

4. What did Mr. Okafor tell her to do?

_____

_____

5. How can you tell Nadia trusted the note?

_____

_____

6. Why did Nadia send a bottle of her own?

_____

_____

Words to know

bobbing: moving up and down on water
wobbles: shakes from side to side
nervous: worried and a little afraid
unrolled: opened up something that was curled

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 Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

Triangle group

Nadia found the bottle bobbing in the creek behind her house on a quiet Wednesday. Inside was a rolled note, and the handwriting was her own. At the top it said, "Sent from next Tuesday. Read me before Monday night."

Nadia's heart thumped as she unrolled the paper. Her future self had written three short lines. The first said, "The science fair table wobbles. Bring a folded piece of cardboard." The second said, "Do not paint the volcano until the glue is dry." The third said, "Tell Mr. Okafor the thing you are nervous about. He will help."

She read it twice. The science fair was next Tuesday, and she had been planning to paint her model volcano on Monday night. She hadn't told anyone that she was nervous about explaining it to a crowd.

Nadia decided to follow the note, even though she did not know how it worked. She let the glue dry overnight. She folded a square of cardboard and tucked it into her backpack. And on Thursday she nervously asked her teacher for advice. Mr. Okafor suggested that she practice her talk on index cards, and he listened to it twice.

On Tuesday the fair table did wobble, and the cardboard fixed it in a second. Her volcano looked perfect, and her talk went smoothly. That evening Nadia wrote a short note of her own, corked it in the same bottle, and set it in the creek, addressed to a future girl who might need it.

Questions

1. Where did Nadia find the bottle?

_____

_____

2. Whose handwriting was on the note?

_____

_____

3. What were the three pieces of advice in the note?

_____

_____

4. What did Mr. Okafor suggest she do?

_____

_____

5. How can you tell that Nadia trusted the note?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Nadia sent a bottle of her own at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

bobbing: moving up and down on water
wobbles: shakes from side to side
nervous: worried and a little afraid
unrolled: opened up something that was curled
corked: closed a bottle with a cork

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 Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

Square group

Nadia found the bottle bobbing in the creek behind her house on a quiet Wednesday. Inside was a rolled note, and the handwriting was unmistakably her own. At the top it said, "Sent from next Tuesday. Read me before Monday night."

Nadia's heart thumped as she carefully unrolled the paper. Her future self had written three brief lines. The first said, "The science fair table wobbles. Bring a folded piece of cardboard." The second said, "Do not paint the volcano until the glue is completely dry." The third said, "Tell Mr. Okafor the thing you are nervous about. He will help."

She read it twice. The science fair was next Tuesday, and she had been planning to paint her model volcano on Monday night. She had never mentioned to anyone that she was nervous about explaining it to a crowd.

Nadia resolved to follow the note, even though she could not begin to explain how it worked. She allowed the glue to dry overnight. She folded a square of cardboard and tucked it into her backpack. And on Thursday she nervously approached her teacher for advice. Mr. Okafor suggested that she rehearse her talk on index cards, and he patiently listened to it twice.

On Tuesday the fair table did wobble, and the cardboard steadied it in a second. Her volcano looked flawless, and her talk went smoothly. That evening Nadia composed a short note of her own, corked it in the same bottle, and set it afloat in the creek, addressed to some future girl who might need it.

Questions

1. Where did Nadia find the bottle?

_____

_____

2. Whose handwriting was on the note?

_____

_____

3. What were the three pieces of advice in the note?

_____

_____

4. What did Mr. Okafor suggest she do?

_____

_____

5. How can you tell that Nadia trusted the note?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Nadia launched a bottle of her own at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

bobbing: moving up and down on water
wobbles: shakes from side to side
nervous: worried and a little afraid
unrolled: opened up something that was curled
corked: closed a bottle with a cork

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 Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

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

Circle: The Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

Easier · 241 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Bobbing in the creek behind her house.
2. Nadia's own.
3. Bring cardboard for the wobbling table, wait for the glue to dry, and tell Mr. Okafor what made her nervous.
4. Practice her talk on index cards.
5. She did all three things even though she did not know how it worked.
6. She wanted to help someone else the way the note helped her.

Triangle: The Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

This passage · 250 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. Bobbing in the creek behind her house.
2. Nadia's own.
3. Bring cardboard for the wobbling table, wait for the glue to dry before painting, and tell Mr. Okafor what she was nervous about.
4. Practice her talk on index cards.
5. She followed all three pieces of advice even though she did not know how it worked.
6. She wanted to help someone else the way the note had helped her.

Square: The Bottle Post from Next Tuesday

Harder · 260 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Bobbing in the creek behind her house.
2. Her own.
3. Bring cardboard for the wobbling table, let the glue dry before painting, and tell Mr. Okafor what she was nervous about.
4. Rehearse her talk on index cards.
5. She followed all of its advice even though she could not explain how it worked.
6. She wanted to help someone else just as the note had helped her.