Name: _____ Date: _____

The Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

Circle group

Ember the dragon had borrowed a book about volcanoes. He kept it for ninety-one days. At last he flew to the Maplewick Library. He held the book in both claws like a sleeping bird.

"That is forty-five coins in fines," said Ms. Adeyemi, the librarian. She looked in her ledger.

Ember's tail drooped. Dragons love treasure. His hoard was his pride. He peeked at the coins in his bag and sighed. Then he saw a stack of wet books on a cart by the door. A pipe had leaked over the weekend. The pages were wrinkled and damp.

"Excuse me," Ember said. "If I breathe warm air very gently, I might dry those books. I would not burn them. Could that pay for my fine?"

Ms. Adeyemi raised her eyebrows. She was not sure. But she said he could try one book. Ember crouched low. He let out a slow, soft breath like a summer breeze. The pages flattened and dried. The library smelled like toast and old paper.

He dried the whole cart that afternoon. He did not burn a single cover. At closing time Ms. Adeyemi crossed out the fine. She gave him a library card. Ember kept most of his coins. He came back every Friday to dry books and borrow a new one.

Questions

1. What was Ember's book about?

_____

_____

2. How many coins was the fine?

_____

_____

3. Why were the books on the cart wet?

_____

_____

4. How did Ember dry the books?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ember's tail droop?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ms. Adeyemi try only one book first?

_____

_____

Words to know

librarian: a person who takes care of a library and its books
ledger: a book where money amounts are written down
hoard: a secret pile of treasure

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 Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

Triangle group

Ember the dragon had borrowed a book about volcanoes, and he had kept it for ninety-one days. When he finally flew down to the Maplewick Library, he held it in both claws like a sleeping bird.

"That comes to forty-five coins in fines," said Ms. Adeyemi, the librarian, after checking her ledger.

Ember's tail drooped. Dragons love treasure, and his hoard was his whole pride. He peeked at the pile of coins in his satchel and sighed. Then he noticed a stack of soggy books on a cart near the door. A pipe had leaked over the weekend, and the pages were wrinkled and damp.

"Excuse me," Ember said. "If I breathe warm air very gently, I might dry those without burning them. Could that count toward my fine?"

Ms. Adeyemi raised her eyebrows. She was not certain, but she agreed to try one book. Ember crouched low and let out a slow, steady breath, as soft as a summer breeze. The pages flattened and stiffened, and the library smelled of toast and old paper.

He dried the whole cart that afternoon without singeing a single cover. At closing time Ms. Adeyemi crossed out the fine in her ledger and offered him a library card of his own. Ember kept most of his coins, and he came back every Friday to dry the books and borrow another.

Questions

1. What was the book Ember borrowed about?

_____

_____

2. How much was the fine in coins?

_____

_____

3. Why were the books on the cart damp?

_____

_____

4. How did Ember dry the books without damaging them?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ember's tail droop when he heard the fine?

_____

_____

6. Why was Ms. Adeyemi careful to try just one book first?

_____

_____

Words to know

librarian: a person who takes care of a library and its books
ledger: a book where money amounts are written down
hoard: a secret pile of treasure
satchel: a bag carried over the shoulder
singeing: burning slightly at the edges

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 Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

Square group

Ember the dragon had borrowed a book about volcanoes, and he had then kept it for a full ninety-one days. When he finally flew down to the Maplewick Library, he carried the book in both claws as carefully as if it were a sleeping bird.

"That comes to forty-five coins in fines," announced Ms. Adeyemi, the librarian, after consulting her ledger.

Ember's tail drooped to the floor. Dragons adore treasure, and his hoard was the great pride of his life. He peeked at the pile of coins in his satchel and sighed heavily. Then he noticed a stack of soggy books on a cart near the door. A pipe had leaked over the weekend, and every page was wrinkled and damp.

"Excuse me," Ember said politely. "If I breathe warm air very gently, I might be able to dry those without burning them. Could that count toward my fine?"

Ms. Adeyemi raised her eyebrows in surprise. She was far from certain, but she agreed to let him try a single book. Ember crouched low and released a slow, steady breath, as soft as a summer breeze. The pages flattened and stiffened, and the whole library smelled of toast and old paper.

He dried the entire cart that afternoon without singeing a single cover. At closing time Ms. Adeyemi crossed the fine out of her ledger and presented him with a library card of his own. Ember kept most of his coins, and he returned every Friday to dry the books and borrow another.

Questions

1. What was the book that Ember borrowed about?

_____

_____

2. How much did Ember owe in fines?

_____

_____

3. What had made the books on the cart soggy?

_____

_____

4. How did Ember dry the books without damaging them?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ember's tail drop to the floor when he heard the fine?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ms. Adeyemi allow only a single book to be tried first?

_____

_____

Words to know

librarian: a person who takes care of a library and its books
ledger: a book where money amounts are written down
hoard: a secret pile of treasure
satchel: a bag carried over the shoulder
singeing: burning slightly at the edges

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 Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

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

Circle: The Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

Easier · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. Volcanoes.
2. Forty-five coins.
3. A pipe had leaked over the weekend.
4. He breathed warm air slowly and gently.
5. He loves his treasure and did not want to lose coins.
6. She was not sure the dragon's breath would not burn the pages.

Triangle: The Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

This passage · 229 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. Volcanoes.
2. Forty-five coins.
3. A pipe had leaked over the weekend.
4. He breathed warm air slowly and gently.
5. He loves his treasure and did not want to lose coins.
6. She was not sure the dragon's breath would not burn the pages.

Square: The Dragon Who Paid Off Overdue Library Books

Harder · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. Volcanoes.
2. Forty-five coins.
3. A pipe had leaked over the weekend.
4. He breathed warm air in a slow, steady, gentle way.
5. He adores his treasure and hated the thought of losing coins.
6. She was not certain the dragon's breath would leave the pages unburned.