Name: _____ Date: _____

The Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

Circle group

A hedgehog named Burdock opened a shop at the edge of Mossgate Lane. He sold one thing: umbrellas. He made them from big leaves, bent twigs, and spider silk. He was proud of every one.

The trouble was that it had not rained for three weeks. Customers walked past the display and kept going. "Why would I need that?" a squirrel said. "The sky is clear."

Burdock felt sad. His neighbor, a quiet mole named Tansy, said he could sell hats or fans instead. But Burdock shook his head. "I make umbrellas. That is what I am good at."

He did not change his shop. He changed his thinking. The next morning, he set up umbrellas in the sunniest part of the lane. He painted a sign: "Shade for hot afternoons." By noon, a line of tired animals waited to borrow one.

When the rain finally came the next week, those same animals came back and bought their own. They remembered the friendly hedgehog who had kept them cool.

Burdock still sold only umbrellas. But he learned that his goods could meet more than one need. The best shopkeepers notice what people truly want. In dry weather, it was not a dry umbrella. It was comfort.

Tansy smiled and bought a big green one.

Questions

1. What did Burdock sell in his shop?

_____

_____

2. Why were customers not buying umbrellas at first?

_____

_____

3. What did Tansy say Burdock could do?

_____

_____

4. What did Burdock's new sign say?

_____

_____

5. Why did the animals come back and buy umbrellas when it rained?

_____

_____

6. What does the story say makes a good shopkeeper?

_____

_____

Words to know

display: a group of items shown so people can see them
silk: a fine, strong thread, such as the kind spiders spin
shopkeepers: people who own and run a shop
comfort: a feeling of being safe, cool, and at ease

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 Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

Triangle group

A hedgehog named Burdock opened a shop at the edge of Mossgate Lane, and he sold one thing only: umbrellas. He made them from big leaves, bent twigs, and spider silk, and he was very proud of every one. The trouble was that it had not rained for three weeks, so customers walked past the display and kept going. A squirrel asked why anyone would need an umbrella when the sky was perfectly clear.

Burdock grew discouraged. His neighbor, a quiet mole named Tansy, suggested that he sell something else, like hats or fans, but Burdock shook his head and said that umbrellas were what he was good at. Instead of changing his shop, he changed his thinking. The next morning, he set up umbrellas in the sunniest part of the lane and painted a sign that read, "Shade for hot afternoons." By noon, a line of tired animals was waiting to borrow one.

When the rain finally came the following week, those same animals returned and bought their own, because they remembered the friendly hedgehog who had kept them cool in the sun. Burdock still sold only umbrellas, but he had learned that his goods could serve more than one need, and that the best shopkeepers notice what people truly want. It was not a dry umbrella in dry weather. It was comfort. Tansy smiled, and she bought a large green one for herself.

Questions

1. What did Burdock sell in his shop?

_____

_____

2. Why were customers not buying umbrellas at first?

_____

_____

3. What did Tansy suggest Burdock do?

_____

_____

4. What did Burdock's new sign say?

_____

_____

5. Why did the animals come back and buy umbrellas when it rained?

_____

_____

6. What does the story suggest makes a good shopkeeper?

_____

_____

Words to know

display: a group of items shown so people can see them
discouraged: feeling less hopeful or confident
silk: a fine, strong thread, such as the kind spiders spin
shopkeepers: people who own and run a shop
comfort: a feeling of being safe, cool, and at ease

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 Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

Square group

A hedgehog named Burdock opened a small shop at the edge of Mossgate Lane. And he sold precisely one thing: umbrellas. He crafted them from enormous leaves, carefully bent twigs, and delicate spider silk. And he was extremely proud of every single one. The difficulty was that it had not rained for three entire weeks, so customers strolled past the display, glanced at it indifferently. And kept going. A squirrel remarked that nobody would possibly need an umbrella when the sky was perfectly clear.

Burdock grew discouraged. His neighbor, a quiet mole named Tansy, proposed that he sell something else, such as hats or fans, but Burdock shook his head and insisted that umbrellas were what he did best. Rather than changing his shop, he changed his thinking. The following morning, he arranged his umbrellas in the sunniest stretch of the lane and painted a sign reading "Shade for hot afternoons." By noon, a line of weary animals was waiting to borrow one.

When the rain finally arrived the following week, those same animals returned and purchased umbrellas of their own, because they remembered the friendly hedgehog who had kept them comfortable beneath the blazing sun. Burdock continued to sell only umbrellas, but he had discovered that his goods could satisfy more than one need. And that the finest shopkeepers pay attention to what people truly want. In dry weather, it was not a dry umbrella they wanted. It was comfort. Tansy smiled, and she bought a large green one for herself.

Questions

1. What did Burdock sell in his shop?

_____

_____

2. Why were customers not buying umbrellas at first?

_____

_____

3. What did Tansy propose that Burdock sell instead?

_____

_____

4. What did Burdock's new sign say?

_____

_____

5. Why did the animals return to buy umbrellas when the rain arrived?

_____

_____

6. According to the story, what do the finest shopkeepers do?

_____

_____

Words to know

display: a group of items shown so people can see them
discouraged: feeling less hopeful or confident
silk: a fine, strong thread, such as the kind spiders spin
shopkeepers: people who own and run a shop
comfort: a feeling of being safe, cool, and at ease

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 Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

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

Circle: The Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

Easier · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. Only umbrellas, made from leaves, twigs, and spider silk.
2. It had not rained for three weeks and the sky was clear.
3. Sell hats or fans instead.
4. Shade for hot afternoons.
5. They remembered how the hedgehog had kept them cool in the sun.
6. Noticing what people truly need and finding new ways to meet it.

Triangle: The Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

This passage · 235 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.7

1. Only umbrellas, made from leaves, twigs, and spider silk.
2. It had not rained for three weeks and the sky was clear.
3. Sell something else, like hats or fans.
4. Shade for hot afternoons.
5. They remembered how the hedgehog had helped them stay cool in the sun.
6. Noticing what people truly need and finding new ways to meet it.

Square: The Hedgehog Who Sold Umbrellas

Harder · 252 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.6

1. Only umbrellas, crafted from leaves, twigs, and spider silk.
2. It had not rained for three entire weeks and the sky was clear.
3. Something else, such as hats or fans.
4. Shade for hot afternoons.
5. They remembered how the friendly hedgehog had kept them cool in the sun.
6. They pay attention to what people truly want and find new ways to provide it.