Name: _____ Date: _____

The Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

Circle group

Gus Tallow of Dunmore had the loudest whisper in the country. When Gus whispered, windows rattled. Hats blew off. Dogs in far towns lifted their heads. His mother said he came out of the cradle whispering as loud as a thunderstorm.

This caused a lot of trouble. Once Gus whispered a secret in class. The chalkboard cracked in half. He whispered good night to his sister, and the roof shingles shivered. The librarian gave him a card that said, "Please do not whisper in here, Gus."

Gus tried everything. He hummed. He mumbled. He even talked with a sock in his mouth. The sock flew across the room like a cannonball. It knocked over the pie table at the fair.

One foggy winter night, a ferry full of passengers drifted off course on Dunmore Lake. The captain's horn had frozen. Nobody could see the shore. A boy on the dock ran to get Gus.

Gus took a deep breath. He whispered as gently as he could, "Over here."

The whisper rolled over the water like a friendly drum. The captain turned his wheel. The ferry slid out of the fog. Everyone cheered. After that, the town kept a lamp and a chair on the dock. When the fog came, Gus whispered the ferries home.

Questions

1. What made Gus Tallow different from other people in Dunmore?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the chalkboard when Gus whispered a secret?

_____

_____

3. Why did the ferry need help one foggy night?

_____

_____

4. How did Gus finally use his loud whisper?

_____

_____

5. What does the card from the librarian tell you about Gus's whisper?

_____

_____

6. How did Gus's problem become a strength?

_____

_____

Words to know

cradle: a small bed for a baby
shingles: thin flat pieces that cover a roof
passengers: people riding in a boat, bus, or train
ferry: a boat that carries people across water

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 Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

Triangle group

Gus Tallow of Dunmore had the loudest whisper in the country. When Gus whispered, windows rattled, hats blew off, and dogs three towns over lifted their heads. His mother said he came out of the cradle whispering at the volume of a thunderstorm.

This caused no end of trouble. When Gus whispered a secret in class, the chalkboard cracked down the middle. When he whispered good night to his sister, the roof shingles shivered. The librarian finally gave him a special card that said, "Please do not whisper in here, Gus."

Gus tried everything. He hummed, he mumbled, and he even talked with a sock in his mouth. The sock flew across the room like a cannonball and knocked over the pie table at the fair.

One foggy winter night, a ferry full of passengers drifted off course on Dunmore Lake. The captain's horn had frozen, and nobody could see the shore. A boy on the dock ran to fetch Gus.

Gus took a deep breath and whispered, as gently as he could, "Over here."

The whisper rolled across the water like a friendly drum. The captain turned his wheel, the ferry slid out of the fog, and every passenger cheered. From then on, the town kept a lamp and a chair on the dock, and whenever the fog rolled in, Gus whispered the ferries home.

Questions

1. What made Gus Tallow different from other people in Dunmore?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the chalkboard when Gus whispered a secret?

_____

_____

3. Why did the ferry need help one foggy night?

_____

_____

4. How did Gus finally use his loud whisper?

_____

_____

5. What does the card from the librarian tell you about Gus's whisper?

_____

_____

6. How did Gus's problem become a strength?

_____

_____

Words to know

cradle: a small bed for a baby
volume: how loud or soft a sound is
shingles: thin flat pieces that cover a roof
passengers: people riding in a boat, bus, or train
ferry: a boat that carries people across water

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 Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

Square group

Gus Tallow of Dunmore possessed the loudest whisper in the entire country. Whenever Gus whispered, windows rattled in their frames, hats blew off heads, and dogs three towns over lifted their ears in alarm. His mother insisted that he had emerged from the cradle whispering at the volume of a thunderstorm.

This caused no end of trouble. When Gus whispered a secret in class, the chalkboard cracked down the middle. When he whispered good night to his sister, the roof shingles shivered. The exasperated librarian eventually issued him a special card that read, "Please do not whisper in here, Gus."

Gus experimented with every remedy he could imagine. He hummed, he mumbled, and he even spoke with a sock stuffed in his mouth. The sock shot across the room like a cannonball and knocked over the pie table at the fair.

Then, on a foggy winter night, a ferry full of passengers drifted dangerously off course on Dunmore Lake. The captain's horn had frozen solid, and nobody aboard could see the shore. A boy on the dock sprinted off to fetch Gus.

Gus took a deep breath and whispered, as gently as he possibly could, "Over here."

The whisper rolled across the water like a friendly drum. The captain turned his wheel, the ferry slid out of the fog, and every passenger cheered. From that night on, the town kept a lamp and a chair on the dock, and whenever the fog rolled in, Gus whispered the ferries safely home.

Questions

1. What made Gus Tallow different from other people in Dunmore?

_____

_____

2. What happened to the chalkboard when Gus whispered a secret?

_____

_____

3. Why did the ferry need help one foggy night?

_____

_____

4. How did Gus finally use his loud whisper?

_____

_____

5. What does the card from the librarian tell you about Gus's whisper?

_____

_____

6. How did Gus's problem turn into a strength?

_____

_____

Words to know

cradle: a small bed for a baby
volume: how loud or soft a sound is
shingles: thin flat pieces that cover a roof
passengers: people riding in a boat, bus, or train
ferry: a boat that carries people across water

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 Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

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

Circle: The Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

Easier · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. He had the loudest whisper in the country.
2. It cracked in half.
3. The captain's horn had frozen and nobody could see the shore.
4. He whispered over the water to guide the ferry to shore.
5. It was so loud it caused trouble even in a quiet place.
6. His loud whisper was the perfect tool for guiding boats in fog.

Triangle: The Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

This passage · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. He had the loudest whisper in the country.
2. It cracked down the middle.
3. The captain's horn had frozen and nobody could see the shore.
4. He whispered across the water to guide the ferry safely to shore.
5. It was so loud it caused problems even in a quiet place.
6. His booming whisper turned out to be the perfect tool for guiding boats in fog.

Square: The Loudest Whisper in Dunmore

Harder · 250 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. He possessed the loudest whisper in the entire country.
2. It cracked down the middle.
3. The captain's horn had frozen solid and nobody aboard could see the shore.
4. He whispered across the water to guide the ferry safely to shore.
5. It was so loud that it disturbed people even in a place meant to be quiet.
6. His booming whisper proved to be the ideal tool for guiding boats through fog.