Name: _____ Date: _____

The Treaty Signed on a Thimble

Circle group

Juno found the tiny town the night her desk lamp flickered. Under the floorboard by her bed was a crack. In the crack stood a lantern the size of a grain of rice. Next to it, a woman as tall as a pencil eraser was waving both arms.

"We are the Floorboard Folk," she said. Her voice sounded like a squeaky hinge. "I am Mayor Fennick. Every night your vacuum shakes our houses. We cannot sleep. Our teacups keep falling."

Juno felt terrible. She had only been cleaning her room. She asked what to do. The mayor said they needed a treaty. That is a written promise. Juno used a thimble as a table. Fennick climbed up with a feather pen and a scrap of tape for paper.

They made the rules together. Juno would vacuum only on Saturday mornings. The Folk would be awake then and could hold their shelves. The Folk would sweep crumbs from the edge of the crack. That would help Juno. They both signed. Juno made a dot with her pencil, and Fennick made a curl.

The next Saturday Juno vacuumed slowly. First she tapped the floor three times as a warning. A small cheer rose from the crack. After that, no teacups fell. The lamp never flickered again.

Questions

1. How big was the lantern in the crack?

_____

_____

2. What shook the houses of the Floorboard Folk every night?

_____

_____

3. What did Juno use as a table?

_____

_____

4. What did the Folk promise to do?

_____

_____

5. Why did Juno feel terrible?

_____

_____

6. Why did Juno tap the floor three times first?

_____

_____

Words to know

treaty: a written agreement between two groups
flickered: shone with an unsteady light
vacuum: a machine that cleans floors by sucking up dirt

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 Treaty Signed on a Thimble

Triangle group

Juno discovered the tiny town the night her desk lamp flickered. Below the floorboard by her bed was a crack, and in the crack stood a lantern the size of a grain of rice. Beside it a woman no taller than a pencil eraser was waving both arms.

"We are the Floorboard Folk," the woman said in a voice like a squeaking hinge. "I am Mayor Fennick. Every night your vacuum rumbles and shakes our houses. We cannot sleep, and our teacups keep falling."

Juno felt terrible. She had only been cleaning her room. She asked what could be done, and the mayor suggested a treaty, a written promise that would help both neighbors. Juno found a thimble to use as a table, and Fennick climbed up with a feather pen and a scrap of tape that she used as paper.

They worked out the terms together. Juno would vacuum on Saturday mornings only, when the Folk were already awake and could hold their shelves steady. In return, the Folk would sweep crumbs from the edge of the crack, which saved Juno some work. They both signed, Juno with a tiny dot of pencil and Fennick with an elegant curl.

The next Saturday Juno vacuumed slowly and warned the crack with three gentle taps first. A small cheer rose from the floor. After that, nobody's teacups fell, and the lamp never flickered again.

Questions

1. How big was the lantern Juno saw in the crack?

_____

_____

2. What was disturbing the Floorboard Folk every night?

_____

_____

3. What did Juno use as a table for signing the treaty?

_____

_____

4. What did the Folk promise to do in return?

_____

_____

5. Why was Juno upset when she heard the mayor's complaint?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Juno tapped the floor three times before vacuuming?

_____

_____

Words to know

treaty: a written agreement between two groups
terms: the exact rules of an agreement
flickered: shone with an unsteady light
elegant: graceful and fancy
vacuum: a machine that cleans floors by sucking up dirt

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 Treaty Signed on a Thimble

Square group

Juno discovered the miniature town on the very night her desk lamp began to flicker. Beneath the floorboard beside her bed was a narrow crack, and inside it stood a lantern no larger than a grain of rice. Next to the lantern, a woman scarcely taller than a pencil eraser was waving both of her arms in the air.

"We are the Floorboard Folk," the woman announced in a voice like a squeaking hinge. "I am Mayor Fennick. Every night your vacuum rumbles and rattles our houses to pieces. We cannot sleep, and our teacups keep tumbling off the shelves."

Juno was mortified. She had only been tidying her room. She asked what could possibly be done, and the mayor proposed a treaty, a written promise that would protect both neighbors. Juno found a thimble to serve as a table, and Fennick scrambled up with a feather pen and a scrap of tape that she used for paper.

Together they worked out the terms. Juno would vacuum only on Saturday mornings, when the Folk were already awake and able to hold their shelves steady. In exchange, the Folk would sweep stray crumbs from the edge of the crack, which would save Juno some effort. They both signed, Juno with a tiny dot of pencil and Fennick with an elegant curl.

The following Saturday Juno vacuumed slowly and warned the crack with three gentle taps beforehand. A small cheer rose from beneath the floor. From then on, nobody's teacups fell, and her lamp never flickered again.

Questions

1. How large was the lantern Juno noticed in the crack?

_____

_____

2. What was disturbing the Floorboard Folk every night?

_____

_____

3. What did Juno use as a table for the signing?

_____

_____

4. What did the Folk agree to do in exchange for the Saturday rule?

_____

_____

5. Why was Juno mortified by the mayor's complaint?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think Juno tapped three times before vacuuming?

_____

_____

Words to know

treaty: a written agreement between two groups
terms: the exact rules of an agreement
flickered: shone with an unsteady light
elegant: graceful and fancy
vacuum: a machine that cleans floors by sucking up dirt

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 Treaty Signed on a Thimble

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

Circle: The Treaty Signed on a Thimble

Easier · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. About the size of a grain of rice.
2. Juno's vacuum.
3. A thimble.
4. Sweep crumbs from the edge of the crack.
5. She had not meant to bother anyone and was only cleaning.
6. To warn the Folk so they could get ready.

Triangle: The Treaty Signed on a Thimble

This passage · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. About the size of a grain of rice.
2. Juno's vacuum rumbling and shaking their houses.
3. A thimble.
4. Sweep crumbs from the edge of the crack.
5. She had not meant to bother anyone and was only cleaning her room.
6. To warn the Folk so they could get ready.

Square: The Treaty Signed on a Thimble

Harder · 255 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. No larger than a grain of rice.
2. The rumbling of Juno's vacuum.
3. A thimble.
4. Sweep stray crumbs from the edge of the crack.
5. She had never intended to trouble anyone and was only tidying her room.
6. To warn the Folk in advance so they could prepare.