Name: _____ Date: _____

Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

Circle group

The ferry bumped the island dock. Tomas was the first one off. That is why he saw it. A steel ring lay by the ramp. Seven keys hung from it. Each key had a bit of faded tape with a number on it.

"Someone will be upset," said his aunt. She picked up the ring. "The numbers must mean something. Let's think."

Tomas looked at the keys as they walked on the harbor road. The tape was red, blue, or yellow. The numbers repeated. So he guessed the colors and the numbers worked together. They passed a rental shed with a row of kayaks. Every kayak had a lock with a red, blue, or yellow tag.

"These are for the kayak locks," Tomas said. He was right. The red key marked 3 opened the red lock on the third kayak. Nobody was in the shed. A sign said the owners would be back after lunch.

They sat on a bench. Soon a girl his age ran down the road. She was out of breath. Her name was Ines. She had looked for the keys all morning. When she saw the ring, she smiled with relief.

"My mother would have been so upset," she said. To say thanks, she let him paddle a kayak around the cove. He wore a life jacket, and it was free.

Questions

1. Where did Tomas find the keys?

_____

_____

2. What was on each key?

_____

_____

3. What did the keys open?

_____

_____

4. Who owned the keys?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas work out where the keys belonged?

_____

_____

6. Why was Ines so relieved?

_____

_____

Words to know

ferry: a boat that carries people across water
ramp: a sloping path that joins two levels
harbor: a sheltered area of water where boats stay
kayak: a small, narrow boat moved with a double paddle
relief: the good feeling when a worry goes away

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: _____

Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

Triangle group

When the ferry bumped against the island dock, Tomas was the first passenger off, which is the only reason he noticed the steel ring lying beside the ramp. Seven keys hung from it, and each one wore a scrap of faded colored tape with a number written across it in marker.

"Somebody is probably panicking right now," said his aunt, who picked up the ring and turned it over in her hand. "The numbers must mean something, so let's think it through carefully."

Tomas studied the keys while they walked along the harbor road. The tape came in red, blue, and yellow, but the numbers repeated themselves, so he guessed that the colors and the numbers were meant to work together. Near the end of the road they passed a rental shed with a long row of kayaks, and every kayak was secured with a lock that had a red, blue, or yellow tag.

"These belong to the kayak locks," Tomas announced. Sure enough, the red key marked 3 opened the red lock on the third kayak. Nobody was inside the shed, but a hand-painted sign promised that the owners would return after lunch.

They waited on a bench until a girl about Tomas's age came racing down the road, completely out of breath. Her name was Ines, and she had been searching her pockets since early morning. When she saw the ring in his hand, her whole face softened with relief.

"My mother would have been so upset," she said. To thank him, she let him paddle one of the kayaks around the cove, wearing a life jacket, at no charge.

Questions

1. Where did Tomas find the ring of keys?

_____

_____

2. What was on each of the seven keys?

_____

_____

3. What did the keys turn out to open?

_____

_____

4. Who owned the keys?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas figure out where the keys belonged?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ines look relieved when she saw the keys?

_____

_____

Words to know

ferry: a boat that carries people across water
ramp: a sloping path that joins two levels
harbor: a sheltered area of water where boats stay
kayak: a small, narrow boat moved with a double paddle
relief: the good feeling when a worry goes away

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: _____

Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

Square group

As the ferry bumped gently against the island dock, Tomas stepped off before any of the other passengers, and that unusual speed was the only reason he noticed the steel ring lying beside the ramp. Seven keys dangled from it, and each one wore a scrap of faded colored tape with a number scrawled across it in black marker.

"Somebody is probably panicking at this very moment," said his aunt, who picked up the ring and turned it over thoughtfully in her palm. "The numbers must mean something, so let's think the problem through carefully."

Tomas examined the keys while they strolled along the harbor road. The tape came in red, blue, and yellow, but the numbers repeated themselves, which led him to suspect that the colors and the numbers were designed to work together. Near the end of the road they passed a rental shed with a long row of kayaks, and every kayak was secured by a lock with a red, blue, or yellow tag.

"These belong to the kayak locks," Tomas announced confidently. Sure enough, the red key marked 3 opened the red lock on the third kayak. Nobody was inside the shed, but a hand-painted sign promised that the owners would return after lunch.

They waited on a nearby bench until a girl about Tomas's age came racing down the road, completely out of breath. Her name was Ines, and she had been searching her pockets since early morning. When she noticed the ring in his hand, her whole face softened with obvious relief.

"My mother would have been so upset," she said. To thank him properly, she allowed him to paddle one of the kayaks around the sheltered cove, wearing a life jacket, at no charge.

Questions

1. Where did Tomas notice the ring of keys?

_____

_____

2. What was attached to each of the seven keys?

_____

_____

3. What did the keys turn out to unlock?

_____

_____

4. Who was the owner of the keys?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas deduce where the keys belonged?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ines look so relieved when she saw the keys?

_____

_____

Words to know

ferry: a boat that carries people across water
ramp: a sloping path that joins two levels
harbor: a sheltered area of water where boats stay
kayak: a small, narrow boat moved with a double paddle
relief: the good feeling when a worry goes away

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: Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

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

Circle: Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

Easier · 224 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. Beside the ramp at the island ferry dock.
2. A bit of colored tape with a number on it.
3. The locks on the kayaks in the rental shed.
4. Ines, whose family ran the kayak rental.
5. The colors on the kayak lock tags matched the colors of the tape on the keys.
6. She had searched for the keys, and losing them would have upset her mother.

Triangle: Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

This passage · 272 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. Beside the ramp at the island ferry dock.
2. A scrap of colored tape with a number written on it.
3. The locks on the kayaks in the rental shed.
4. Ines, whose family ran the kayak rental.
5. He noticed the tag colors on the kayak locks matched the colors of the tape on the keys.
6. She had been searching for them, and losing them would have upset her mother.

Square: Seven Keys Found on the Ferry Ramp

Harder · 291 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.2

1. Beside the ramp at the island ferry dock.
2. A scrap of colored tape with a number written on it.
3. The locks on the kayaks in the rental shed.
4. Ines, whose family ran the kayak rental.
5. He saw that the tag colors on the kayak locks matched the colors of tape on the keys.
6. She had been searching for them, and losing them would have upset her mother.