Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

Circle group

Dot Abernathy spent all summer making her strawberry jam. Hobart Quill spent it making his dill pickles. On the morning of the county fair, each of them brought a jar to the judges' table. Each jar sat beside a paper label.

Neither of them saw the wind. A gust blew across the table. It flipped the labels and dropped them in the wrong places. The jar of jam now said DILL PICKLES. The jar of pickles said STRAWBERRY JAM.

The head judge was Mrs. Flinch. She wore a white apron and held a silver spoon. She read the first label, spread the jar on a cracker, and took a bite. Her eyebrows went up and up. "This is the sweetest pickle I ever tasted," she said, "and it has no crunch."

The second judge opened the other jar and ate a long green slice. "This is the crunchiest jam in the county," he gasped. "It tastes like a salty pool."

Dot and Hobart saw the problem and ran over. The judges listened and laughed. They swapped the labels back. A small crowd had gathered. A boy said, "Wait. Try the jam and the pickle together."

Mrs. Flinch stacked a pickle slice on a jam cracker. She took a careful bite. The crowd leaned in. "Well, I never," she said. The new snack won a special ribbon. The line for it reached the Ferris wheel.

Questions

1. What did Dot and Hobart each bring to the judges' table?

_____

_____

2. What made the labels end up on the wrong jars?

_____

_____

3. Why was Mrs. Flinch's face so strange after her bite?

_____

_____

4. How did the second judge describe the pickles he thought were jam?

_____

_____

5. Who said to try the jam and the pickle together?

_____

_____

6. How did the story end well for Dot and Hobart?

_____

_____

Words to know

gust: a sudden, strong rush of wind

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 Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

Triangle group

Dot Abernathy had spent the whole summer perfecting her strawberry jam, and Hobart Quill had spent it perfecting his dill pickles. On the morning of the county fair, both of them carried a single jar to the judges' table and set it down beside a neatly printed label.

What neither of them noticed was a sudden gust of wind. It swept across the table and flipped the labels over. Then it dropped them back in the wrong places. The jar of jam now announced DILL PICKLES, while the jar of pickles proudly proclaimed STRAWBERRY JAM.

The head judge, a very serious woman named Mrs. Flinch, wore a crisp white apron and carried a silver spoon. She read the label on the first jar and spread some on a cracker. Then she took a dignified bite. Her eyebrows rose, and they kept rising until they nearly escaped her forehead. "This is the sweetest pickle I have ever tasted," she said slowly, "and it has no crunch at all."

The second judge opened the other jar, speared a long green slice, and chewed with growing alarm. "This is the crunchiest jam in the entire county," he gasped, "and it tastes like a salty swimming pool."

When Dot and Hobart finally understood the problem, they dashed over to explain. The judges listened, chuckled, and returned the labels to their proper jars. By then, however, a small crowd had gathered, and a boy near the front suggested, "Why not try the jam and the pickle together?"

Mrs. Flinch hesitated, then balanced a pickle slice on a jam-covered cracker and took a cautious bite. The crowd leaned closer. She chewed, swallowed, and murmured, "Well, I never." The surprising snack earned a special ribbon, and the line for it stretched all the way to the Ferris wheel.

Questions

1. What did Dot and Hobart each bring to the judges' table?

_____

_____

2. What caused the labels to end up on the wrong jars?

_____

_____

3. Why was Mrs. Flinch's reaction to the first jar so strange?

_____

_____

4. How did the second judge describe the pickles he thought were jam?

_____

_____

5. Who suggested trying the jam and the pickle together?

_____

_____

6. How did the story turn out well for Dot and Hobart?

_____

_____

Words to know

perfecting: working to make something as good as it can be
gust: a sudden, strong rush of wind
speared: poked and picked up with something pointed
hesitated: paused because you are not sure
cautious: careful to avoid a problem

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 Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

Square group

Dot Abernathy had devoted her entire summer to perfecting her strawberry jam, and Hobart Quill had devoted his to perfecting his dill pickles. On the morning of the county fair, both of them carried a single jar to the judges' table and set it down beside a neat paper label.

What neither of them noticed was a sudden gust of wind. It swept across the table, flipped the labels over, and deposited them back in the wrong places. The jar of jam now announced DILL PICKLES, while the jar of pickles proudly proclaimed STRAWBERRY JAM.

The head judge, a formidable woman named Mrs. Flinch, wore a crisp white apron and carried a silver spoon. She read the label on the first jar, spread a generous layer on a cracker, and took a dignified bite. Her eyebrows rose, and they continued to rise until they nearly left her forehead. "This is the sweetest pickle I have ever tasted," she said slowly, "and it has absolutely no crunch."

The second judge opened the other jar, speared a long green slice, and chewed with growing alarm. "This is the crunchiest jam in the entire county," he gasped, "and it tastes like a salty swimming pool."

Dot and Hobart finally realized what had happened and dashed over to explain. The judges listened, chuckled, and restored the labels to their proper jars. By then, however, a small crowd had gathered, and a boy near the front piped up, "Wait. Why not try the jam and the pickle together?"

Mrs. Flinch hesitated, then balanced a pickle slice on a jam-covered cracker and took a cautious bite. The crowd leaned closer. She chewed, swallowed, and murmured, "Well, I never." The surprising new snack earned a special ribbon, and the line for it stretched all the way to the Ferris wheel.

Questions

1. What did Dot and Hobart each carry to the judges' table?

_____

_____

2. What caused the labels to land on the wrong jars?

_____

_____

3. Why was Mrs. Flinch's reaction to the first jar so dramatic?

_____

_____

4. How did the second judge describe the pickles he believed were jam?

_____

_____

5. Who proposed trying the jam and the pickle together?

_____

_____

6. In what way did the mix-up turn out well for Dot and Hobart?

_____

_____

Words to know

perfecting: working to make something as good as it can be
gust: a sudden, strong rush of wind
speared: poked and picked up with something pointed
hesitated: paused because you are not sure
cautious: careful to avoid a problem

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 Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

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

Circle: The Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

Easier · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Dot brought strawberry jam and Hobart brought dill pickles.
2. A gust of wind flipped them and dropped them in the wrong places.
3. She expected jam but tasted a pickle.
4. He said they were crunchy and tasted like a salty pool.
5. A boy in the crowd.
6. Their new snack won a special ribbon and had a long line.

Triangle: The Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

This passage · 302 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.4

1. Dot brought strawberry jam and Hobart brought dill pickles.
2. A gust of wind flipped them and dropped them back in the wrong places.
3. She expected jam but tasted a pickle.
4. He said they were the crunchiest jam and tasted like a salty swimming pool.
5. A boy near the front of the crowd.
6. Their mixed-up snack won a special ribbon and drew a very long line.

Square: The Pickle Jam Switcheroo at the County Fair

Harder · 304 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.1

1. Dot carried strawberry jam and Hobart carried dill pickles.
2. A sudden gust of wind flipped them and put them back in the wrong places.
3. She expected sweet jam but tasted a pickle instead.
4. He called them the crunchiest jam in the county and said they tasted like a salty swimming pool.
5. A boy standing near the front of the crowd.
6. The combined snack won a special ribbon and drew a line that stretched to the Ferris wheel.