Name: _____ Date: _____

Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

Circle group

Grandpa said the bathroom floor needed new grout. Ines thought it would be a quick job. She pictured frosting a cake. Spread it, smooth it, done. After one hour, the gray paste was on the tile, on her sleeves, and on the towel rack. The gaps between the tiles still looked lumpy.

"You are pressing it on, not pushing it in," Grandpa said. He knelt down with a sigh. He took the rubber float and slid it at a slant across the tiles. The paste went deep into each narrow gap. "Work in small patches. Grout dries faster than you think."

Ines tried again. Pushing the paste in felt slower, but the lines filled up. Then came the sponge. Grandpa called it the real test. If you wipe too early, the grout pulls out of the gaps. If you wipe too late, a hazy film hardens on the tiles.

"How will I know when?" she asked.

"Press a fingertip on a line. If it leaves a dent and no paste sticks to your skin, you are ready."

Her first patch was perfect. Her second was cloudy. She had waited while she checked her phone. Grandpa did not scold her. He gave her a damp cloth and a bottle of vinegar mix. Together they scrubbed the haze away.

By evening, every line was clean and straight. Ines sat on the edge of the tub. She was tired and happy. "It took six hours," she said.

"Then it is yours," Grandpa said. "Nobody forgets a floor they finished themselves."

Questions

1. What did Ines compare grouting to at first?

_____

_____

2. What was Ines doing wrong at first?

_____

_____

3. How can Ines tell the grout is ready to wipe?

_____

_____

4. Why was her second patch cloudy?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Grandpa did not scold her?

_____

_____

6. What did Grandpa mean about a floor you finished yourself?

_____

_____

Words to know

grout: the paste that fills the gaps between tiles
haze: a thin, cloudy film
scold: to speak to someone angrily about a mistake

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: _____

Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

Triangle group

When Grandpa announced that the bathroom floor needed new grout, Ines assumed that the job would be quick, because she pictured something like frosting a cake, in which a person spreads, smooths, and finishes. By the end of the first hour, her pile of gray paste had spread across the tile, her sleeves. One corner of the towel rack. The gaps between the tiles still looked lumpy and uneven.

Grandpa knelt beside her with a creaky sigh and explained that she was pressing the paste on rather than pushing it in. He took the rubber float and slid it diagonally across the tiles, forcing the grout deep into each narrow channel, and he reminded her to work in small patches, since grout dries much faster than most people expect. Pushing the paste in felt slower. But the lines gradually filled.

Then came the sponge, which Grandpa called the real test, because wiping too early would pull the grout right out of the gaps, while wiping too late would leave a hazy film that hardened on the tiles like old frost. He told her that she would know the right moment when a fingertip pressed against a line left a dent but no paste stuck to her skin. Her first patch turned out perfect. But her second was cloudy, because she had waited while she checked her phone. Grandpa did not scold her; he simply handed over a damp cloth and a bottle of vinegar solution, and together they scrubbed the haze away.

By evening every line was clean, straight, and slightly darker than the tile. Ines sat on the edge of the tub, aching and satisfied, remarking that the work had taken six hours. Grandpa replied that the floor was therefore hers, since nobody ever forgets a floor that they finished themselves.

Questions

1. What did Ines compare grouting to before she started?

_____

_____

2. What was Ines doing wrong at first?

_____

_____

3. How can Ines tell when the grout is ready to be wiped?

_____

_____

4. Why was Ines's second patch cloudy?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think Grandpa did not scold her?

_____

_____

6. What did Grandpa mean when he said nobody forgets a floor they finished themselves?

_____

_____

Words to know

grout: the paste that fills the gaps between tiles
diagonally: at a slant, from one corner toward the opposite corner
channel: a narrow groove or gap
haze: a thin, cloudy film
scold: to speak to someone angrily about a mistake

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: _____

Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

Square group

When Grandpa announced that the bathroom floor needed new grout, Ines assumed that the job would be quick, because she pictured something like frosting a cake, in which a person spreads, smooths, and finishes. By the end of the first hour, her pile of gray paste had spread across the tile, her sleeves. One corner of the towel rack. The gaps between the tiles still looked lumpy and uneven.

Grandpa knelt beside her with a creaky sigh and explained that she was pressing the paste on rather than pushing it in. He took the rubber float and slid it diagonally across the tiles, forcing the grout deep into each narrow channel, and he reminded her to work in modest patches, since grout dries much faster than most people expect. Pushing the paste in felt slower. But the lines gradually filled.

Then came the sponge, which Grandpa called the real test, because wiping too early would pull the grout right out of the gaps, while wiping too late would leave a hazy film that hardened on the tiles like old frost, and he told her that she would know the right moment when a fingertip pressed against a line left a dent but no paste stuck to her skin. Her first patch turned out perfect. But her second was cloudy, because she had waited while she checked her phone. Grandpa did not scold her; he merely handed over a damp cloth and a bottle of vinegar solution, and together they scrubbed the haze away.

By evening every line was clean, straight, and slightly darker than the tile, and Ines sat on the edge of the tub, aching and satisfied, remarking that the work had taken six hours. Grandpa replied that the floor was therefore hers, since nobody ever forgets a floor that they finished themselves.

Questions

1. What did Ines liken grouting to before she began?

_____

_____

2. What was Ines doing incorrectly at the start?

_____

_____

3. How can Ines recognize that the grout is ready to be wiped?

_____

_____

4. Why did her second patch turn cloudy?

_____

_____

5. Why might Grandpa have chosen not to scold her?

_____

_____

6. What did Grandpa mean when he said nobody forgets a floor they finished themselves?

_____

_____

Words to know

grout: the paste that fills the gaps between tiles
diagonally: at a slant, from one corner toward the opposite corner
channel: a narrow groove or gap
haze: a thin, cloudy film
scold: to speak to someone angrily about a mistake

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: Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

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

Circle: Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

Easier · 257 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. Frosting a cake.
2. She pressed the grout on instead of pushing it deep into the gaps.
3. A fingertip leaves a dent but no paste sticks to her skin.
4. She waited too long to wipe it while she checked her phone.
5. He knew mistakes help people learn, so he helped her fix it.
6. People are proud of work they did with their own effort.

Triangle: Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

This passage · 302 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. Frosting a cake.
2. She was pressing the grout onto the tiles instead of pushing it deep into the gaps.
3. A fingertip leaves a dent but no paste sticks to her skin.
4. She waited too long to wipe it while she was checking her phone.
5. He knew mistakes are part of learning and chose to help her fix the haze.
6. People feel proud of work they completed with their own effort.

Square: Grout Lines in Grandpa's Bathroom

Harder · 304 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.9

1. Frosting a cake.
2. She was pressing the grout onto the tiles instead of forcing it deep into the gaps.
3. A fingertip leaves a dent but no paste clings to her skin.
4. She delayed wiping it while she was checking her phone.
5. He understood that mistakes are part of learning and preferred to help her correct it.
6. People take lasting pride in work they completed through their own effort.