Name: _____ Date: _____

The Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

Circle group

A small brown honeyguide named Tavi lived in a grassy valley with acacia trees. She had a rare talent. She could find wild bees' nests hidden in tree hollows better than any other bird. She knew where the sweetest honey was.

But there was one problem. Tavi loved the waxy honeycomb, but she could not break into a hive alone. The bees were many, the bark was thick, and her beak was tiny.

For a long time, she tried by herself. She pecked at the bark until her beak ached. The bees swarmed around her and sent her tumbling into the grass. "This is not fair," she muttered. "I find the hive, and someone else should do the hard part."

A honey badger named Brisk was wandering nearby. He was strong and thick-skinned, but he was not good at finding hives. He did not see Tavi at first. Then she began to chatter loudly from a branch. She fluttered a little way ahead, waited, and fluttered ahead again.

Brisk understood. He followed her for a long way until they came to an old, twisted tree. With his sharp claws, he tore open the hollow and ate the honey. He left a big share of the comb on the ground.

Tavi ate until she was full. She had learned that her skill was only half of the answer. A partner with different strengths could finish the job.

Questions

1. What special talent did Tavi have?

_____

_____

2. Why could Tavi not break into a hive alone?

_____

_____

3. How did Tavi get the badger's attention?

_____

_____

4. What did Brisk leave for Tavi?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tavi's try alone fail?

_____

_____

6. What does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

acacia: a kind of thorny tree common in dry, warm lands
hollows: empty spaces inside trees or other solid things
swarmed: gathered around in a big, buzzing crowd

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 Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

Triangle group

A small brown honeyguide named Tavi lived in a grassy valley dotted with acacia trees, and she had a rare talent. Better than any other bird, she could find the wild bees' nests hidden in tree hollows, and she knew precisely where the sweetest honey was kept.

There was one considerable difficulty, though. Tavi loved the waxy honeycomb, but she could not break into a hive by herself, because the bees were many, the bark was thick, and her beak was tiny.

For a long while she attempted to manage alone. She pecked at the bark until her beak ached, and the bees swarmed around her and sent her tumbling into the grass. She muttered that it was unfair that she should find the hive while somebody else ought to do the hard part.

A honey badger named Brisk happened to be wandering nearby. He was strong and thick-skinned, but he was rather clumsy at locating hives. He did not see Tavi at first. Then she began to chatter loudly from a branch, and she fluttered a little way ahead, waited, and fluttered ahead again.

Brisk understood. He followed her chattering path for a long way until they reached a gnarled old tree. With his sharp claws, he tore open the hollow and enjoyed the honey, and he left behind a generous share of the comb on the ground.

Tavi ate until she was full. She had finally learned that her skill was only half of the answer, and that a partner with different strengths could finish the job.

Questions

1. What special talent did Tavi have?

_____

_____

2. Why could Tavi not break into a hive herself?

_____

_____

3. How did Tavi get the badger's attention?

_____

_____

4. What did Brisk leave for Tavi?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tavi's solo attempt fail?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

acacia: a kind of thorny tree common in dry, warm lands
hollows: empty spaces inside trees or other solid things
swarmed: gathered around in a big, buzzing crowd
gnarled: twisted and rough, as old trees often are
generous: willing to give or share more than needed

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 Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

Square group

A small brown honeyguide named Tavi lived in a broad grassy valley dotted with acacia trees, and she possessed a rare and valuable talent. Better than any other bird in the valley, she could locate the wild bees' nests concealed in tree hollows, and she knew precisely where the sweetest honey was stored.

There was, however, one considerable difficulty. Tavi adored the waxy honeycomb, but she could not break into a hive by herself, because the bees were numerous, the bark was thick, and her beak was tiny.

For a long while she attempted to manage on her own. She pecked at the bark until her beak ached, and the angry bees swarmed around her and sent her tumbling into the grass. She muttered that it was deeply unfair that she should find the hive while somebody else ought to do the difficult part.

A honey badger named Brisk happened to be wandering nearby. He was strong and thick-skinned, but he was also rather clumsy at locating hives on his own. He did not notice Tavi at first. Then she began to chatter loudly from a branch, and she fluttered a short distance ahead, waited patiently, and fluttered ahead once more.

Brisk understood. He followed her chattering path for a long way until they reached a gnarled old tree. With his sharp claws, he tore open the hollow and enjoyed the honey, and he left behind a generous share of the comb on the ground.

Tavi ate until she was full. She had finally learned that her skill was only half of the answer, and that a partner with different strengths could complete the job successfully.

Questions

1. What special talent did Tavi have?

_____

_____

2. Why could Tavi not break into a hive by herself?

_____

_____

3. How did Tavi get the badger's attention?

_____

_____

4. What did Brisk leave for Tavi?

_____

_____

5. Why did Tavi's attempt on her own fail?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

acacia: a kind of thorny tree common in dry, warm lands
hollows: empty spaces inside trees or other solid things
swarmed: gathered around in a big, buzzing crowd
gnarled: twisted and rough, as old trees often are
generous: willing to give or share more than needed

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 Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

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

Circle: The Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

Easier · 237 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. She could find wild bees' nests in tree hollows.
2. The bees were many, the bark was thick, and her beak was tiny.
3. She chattered loudly and fluttered ahead, then waited for him.
4. A big share of the honeycomb on the ground.
5. She was not strong enough to open the hive, and the bees drove her off.
6. Partners with different strengths can do a job that one alone cannot.

Triangle: The Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

This passage · 260 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. She could find wild bees' nests hidden in tree hollows.
2. The bees were many, the bark was thick, and her beak was tiny.
3. She chattered loudly and fluttered ahead, then waited for him to follow.
4. A generous share of the honeycomb on the ground.
5. She did not have the strength to open the hive, and the bees drove her off.
6. Partners with different strengths can finish a job that one alone cannot.

Square: The Honeyguide Who Waited for a Partner

Harder · 277 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. She could find wild bees' nests hidden in tree hollows.
2. The bees were numerous, the bark was thick, and her beak was tiny.
3. She chattered loudly and fluttered ahead, then waited for him to follow.
4. A generous share of the honeycomb on the ground.
5. She lacked the strength to open the hive, and the bees drove her off.
6. Partners with different strengths can complete a job that one alone cannot.