Name: _____ Date: _____

Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

Circle group

The bus depot kept lost bags in a back room. On Saturdays, Rennie helped his uncle sort them. One morning a cello case sat alone on the floor. A tag on the handle said only "Locker 31."

"Every bag has a name on its tag," his uncle said. "This one has a place. Someone wanted us to look there."

Locker 31 was in the main hall. Rennie found the right key on his uncle's ring. Inside he found a violin bow, a roll of rosin in a handkerchief, and a ticket stub. The stub was for a concert at the college music hall nine days before.

"Whoever lost the cello lost the bow too," Rennie said. "Nobody leaves a bow on purpose."

He called the music hall. A receptionist told him that a student named Imogen had played there that night. She missed her bus home in the crowd. She had been worried ever since. She did not know her things were in two places.

Imogen came the next afternoon with a big smile. She tuned the strings in the waiting area and drew the bow across them. One long low note rolled through the depot. Travelers stopped to listen. One man forgot to board his bus.

Questions

1. What was written on the tag of the cello case?

_____

_____

2. What did Rennie find in the locker?

_____

_____

3. Whom did Rennie call to learn more?

_____

_____

4. Why had Imogen not come for her cello sooner?

_____

_____

5. Why did Rennie think the bow and the cello went together?

_____

_____

6. What does the ending tell you about Imogen's playing?

_____

_____

Words to know

depot: a station where buses or trains stop and wait
rosin: a sticky powder rubbed on a bow to help it grip the strings
stub: the small piece of a ticket that you keep
tuned: adjusted so that each string makes the right sound

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: _____

Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

Triangle group

The bus depot stored lost luggage in a back room, and on Saturdays Rennie helped his uncle sort it. That morning a cello case sat alone in the middle of the floor, and a paper tag tied to its handle read only "Locker 31."

"Every claimed bag has a name on its tag," his uncle explained. "This one has a place instead, which means somebody wanted us to look there."

Locker 31 was in the main hall, and its small door was locked. Rennie checked his uncle's ring of keys and found the one that fit. Inside lay a violin bow, a roll of rosin wrapped in a handkerchief, and a ticket stub for a concert at the college music hall dated nine days earlier.

"Whoever lost the cello also lost the bow," Rennie said slowly. "Nobody leaves a bow behind on purpose. It would be like leaving a pen and keeping an empty notebook."

He phoned the music hall, and a cheerful receptionist explained that a visiting student named Imogen had performed that night and then missed her bus home in the crowd. She had been frantic ever since, but she never realized she had left her things in two separate places.

Imogen arrived the following afternoon with a spare coat and an enormous smile. She tuned the strings right there in the waiting area, drew the bow across them once, and the long low note rolled through the whole depot. A few travelers stopped to listen, and one of them even forgot to board his bus.

Questions

1. What was written on the tag tied to the cello case?

_____

_____

2. What did Rennie find inside the locker?

_____

_____

3. Whom did Rennie telephone to learn more?

_____

_____

4. Why had Imogen not come back for her instrument sooner?

_____

_____

5. Why did Rennie decide the bow and the cello belonged together?

_____

_____

6. What does the ending show about Imogen's playing?

_____

_____

Words to know

depot: a station where buses or trains stop and wait
rosin: a sticky powder rubbed on a bow to help it grip the strings
stub: the small piece of a ticket that you keep
frantic: very worried and upset, rushing around
tuned: adjusted so that each string makes the right sound

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: _____

Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

Square group

The bus depot stored its lost luggage in a cluttered back room, and on Saturdays Rennie helped his uncle sort through it. That morning a single cello case sat alone in the middle of the floor, and a paper tag fastened to its handle read only "Locker 31."

"Every claimed bag carries a name on its tag," his uncle explained. "This one carries a place instead, which suggests that somebody wanted us to look there."

Locker 31 stood in the main hall, and its small door was locked. Rennie searched his uncle's heavy ring of keys until he found the one that fit. Inside lay a violin bow, a roll of rosin wrapped in a handkerchief, and a ticket stub for a concert at the college music hall dated nine days earlier.

"Whoever lost the cello also lost the bow," Rennie said slowly. "Nobody leaves a bow behind on purpose. It would be like keeping an empty notebook and forgetting the pen."

He telephoned the music hall, and a cheerful receptionist explained that a visiting student named Imogen had performed that night and had then missed her bus home in the crowd. She had been frantic ever since, but she had never realized that she had left her belongings in two separate places.

Imogen arrived the following afternoon with a spare coat and an enormous smile. She tuned the strings right there in the waiting area and drew the bow across them once, and a long, low note rolled through the entire depot. Several travelers paused to listen, and one of them became so absorbed that he forgot to board his bus.

Questions

1. What did the paper tag on the cello case say?

_____

_____

2. What did Rennie discover inside the locker?

_____

_____

3. Whom did Rennie telephone to find out more?

_____

_____

4. Why had Imogen not returned for her instrument right away?

_____

_____

5. Why did Rennie conclude that the bow and the cello belonged together?

_____

_____

6. What does the ending reveal about Imogen's playing?

_____

_____

Words to know

depot: a station where buses or trains stop and wait
rosin: a sticky powder rubbed on a bow to help it grip the strings
stub: the small piece of a ticket that you keep
frantic: very worried and upset, rushing around
tuned: adjusted so that each string makes the right sound

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: Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

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

Circle: Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

Easier · 205 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Only the words Locker 31.
2. A violin bow, a roll of rosin, and a ticket stub.
3. The receptionist at the college music hall.
4. She did not know her things were in two different places.
5. Nobody leaves a bow behind on purpose, so one person lost both.
6. It was lovely, because travelers stopped to listen and one forgot his bus.

Triangle: Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

This passage · 256 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.1

1. Only the words Locker 31.
2. A violin bow, a roll of rosin in a handkerchief, and a concert ticket stub.
3. The receptionist at the college music hall.
4. She did not realize she had left her things in two separate places.
5. Nobody leaves a bow behind on purpose, so the two must have been lost by the same person.
6. It was beautiful enough that travelers stopped, and one even forgot to board his bus.

Square: Locker 31 and the Cello With No Owner

Harder · 270 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. It read only Locker 31.
2. A violin bow, a roll of rosin wrapped in a handkerchief, and a concert ticket stub.
3. A receptionist at the college music hall.
4. She had not realized that she had left her belongings in two separate places.
5. Nobody leaves a bow behind on purpose, so one person must have lost both.
6. It was beautiful enough that travelers paused to listen, and one even forgot to board his bus.