Name: _____ Date: _____

The Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

Circle group

Between two fence posts at the edge of a garden, an orb weaver named Sable hung her web each evening. It was lovely. It had spokes like a wheel and a spiral of sticky silk across them in neat lines. By morning, it was usually torn.

Dew weighed down the threads. A gust of wind ripped a hole. A clumsy beetle had flown through the middle and wrecked a whole part. Each dawn, Sable looked at the damage and felt sad. "What is the point?" she asked a ladybug. "I build all night, and the day wrecks it."

The ladybug stopped on a leaf. "But you are still here," she said. "And you are still fed."

Sable had no answer. She had been so busy counting what was broken that she had not counted what worked. When she thought about it, she saw that the web caught enough flies each evening to keep her strong. Rebuilding was not a punishment. It was just how a spider lived.

So she changed her habit. At sunrise, she stopped feeling sad. She began to eat the old silk, rolling it up and swallowing it so nothing was wasted. Then she spun a new web from the same silk. She worked with quiet, steady pride.

On the busiest evening of that summer, the new web glittered in the dusk. Sable knew that fixing something was never a failure. It was a skill she was getting better at.

Questions

1. Where did Sable hang her web?

_____

_____

2. What damaged the web overnight?

_____

_____

3. What did the ladybug say to Sable?

_____

_____

4. What did Sable do with the old silk?

_____

_____

5. Why did Sable feel sad each dawn?

_____

_____

6. What does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

orb: something round, like a ball or a wheel

glittered: sparkled with small flashes of light

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 Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

Triangle group

Between two fence posts at the edge of a garden, an orb weaver named Sable hung her web every evening. It was a marvelous thing, with spokes like a wheel and a spiral of sticky silk wound across them in perfect lines, but by morning it was usually in tatters.

Dew sagged on the threads, a gust of wind tore a hole, and a clumsy beetle had flown through the middle and wrecked a whole section. Each dawn, Sable looked at the damage and felt a wave of discouragement, and she asked a passing ladybug what the point could be when she built all night and the day undid it.

The ladybug paused on a leaf and observed that Sable was still here and still fed. Sable had no answer. She had been so busy counting what was broken that she had not counted what was working. When she thought about it, she realized that the web caught enough flies each evening to keep her strong, and that rebuilding was not punishment at all but simply how a spider lived.

So she changed her habit. Instead of lamenting at sunrise, she began to eat the old silk, rolling it up and swallowing it so that nothing would be wasted, and then she spun a fresh web with the same material, working with a quiet, steady pride.

On the busiest evening of that summer, the new web glittered in the dusk, and Sable knew that repairing something was never a failure. It was a skill she was getting better at.

Questions

1. Where did Sable hang her web?

_____

_____

2. What damaged the web overnight?

_____

_____

3. What did the ladybug point out to Sable?

_____

_____

4. What did Sable do with the old silk?

_____

_____

5. Why did Sable feel discouraged each dawn?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

orb: something round, like a ball or a wheel
tatters: torn, ragged pieces of something
discouragement: a loss of hope or confidence
lamenting: feeling or showing deep sadness about something
glittered: sparkled with small flashes of light

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 Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

Square group

Between two weathered fence posts at the edge of a garden, an orb weaver named Sable hung her web every evening. It was a marvelous construction, with spokes radiating like those of a wheel and a spiral of sticky silk wound across them in perfectly even lines, but by morning it was usually in tatters.

Dew sagged on the delicate threads, a sudden gust of wind tore a gaping hole, and a clumsy beetle had blundered through the middle and wrecked an entire section. Each dawn, Sable surveyed the damage and felt a wave of discouragement, and she asked a passing ladybug what the point could possibly be when she labored all night and the day simply undid it.

The ladybug paused on a leaf and observed that Sable was still here and still fed. Sable had no answer. She had been so preoccupied with counting what was broken that she had never counted what was working. When she considered the matter carefully, she realized that the web caught enough flies each evening to keep her strong, and that rebuilding was not a punishment at all but simply the way a spider lived.

So she changed her habit. Instead of lamenting at sunrise, she began to eat the old silk, rolling it into a ball and swallowing it so that nothing would be wasted, and then she spun a fresh web from that very material, setting to work with a quiet and steady pride.

On the busiest evening of that summer, the new web glittered in the dusk, and Sable understood that repairing something was never a failure. It was a skill she was steadily getting better at.

Questions

1. Where did Sable hang her web?

_____

_____

2. What damaged the web overnight?

_____

_____

3. What did the ladybug point out to Sable?

_____

_____

4. What did Sable do with the old silk?

_____

_____

5. Why did Sable feel discouraged each dawn?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

orb: something round, like a ball or a wheel
tatters: torn, ragged pieces of something
discouragement: a loss of hope or confidence
lamenting: feeling or showing deep sadness about something
glittered: sparkled with small flashes of light

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 Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

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

Circle: The Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

Easier · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Between two fence posts at the edge of a garden.
2. Dew, a gust of wind, and a clumsy beetle.
3. That she was still here and still fed.
4. She ate it and used it to spin a new web.
5. She looked at what was broken and thought her work was undone.
6. Fixing and starting again is not a failure, and it can be a skill.

Triangle: The Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

This passage · 259 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.6

1. Between two fence posts at the edge of a garden.
2. Dew, a gust of wind, and a clumsy beetle.
3. That she was still here and still fed.
4. She ate it and used it to spin a fresh web.
5. She focused on what was broken and thought her work was undone.
6. Repairing and starting again is not a failure, and it can become a skill.

Square: The Orb Weaver's Morning Repairs

Harder · 278 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.3

1. Between two fence posts at the edge of a garden.
2. Dew, a sudden gust of wind, and a clumsy beetle.
3. That she was still here and still fed.
4. She ate it and used it to spin a fresh web.
5. She focused on what was broken and believed her work had been undone.
6. Repairing and starting again is not a failure, and it can become a skill.