Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

Circle group

Across a wide prairie, a young pronghorn named Dash was known for her speed. She could race over the grass faster than anyone in the herd. She took every chance to show it. The older pronghorns watched her race the wind and shook their heads. Dash never took advice. She thought speed could fix everything.

One dry summer, the herd needed to reach a far creek where water still ran. The way crossed a ranch, and a long wire fence stretched over the open land. Dash raced ahead. At the fence, she skidded to a stop. She could run for miles, but she could not jump the tall wires.

The herd gathered behind her. They were thirsty and restless. Dash paced along the fence. "I am the fastest of us all," she said, "and I cannot cross a few wires."

A small prairie dog popped up from a hole by the fence. "You are looking the wrong way," she squeaked. "The bottom wire is smooth, and it is higher at the next post. Pronghorns go under fences all the time."

Dash felt her pride sting. She had thought someone so small could not teach her anything. But she lowered her head and crept under the smooth wire. One by one, the herd followed. Soon they were drinking at the creek.

Dash thanked the prairie dog. Speed carries an animal far, she learned, but listening shows it which way to go.

## Questions

**1. What was Dash known for?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did the herd need to cross the ranch?**

_____

_____

**3. What stopped Dash at the fence?**

_____

_____

**4. What advice did the prairie dog give?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Dash's pride sting?**

_____

_____

**6. What does the story teach?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

prairie: a large, flat area covered in grass

restless: unable to stay still or relax

## 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 Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

Triangle group

Across a wide prairie, a young pronghorn named Dash was known throughout the herd for her speed. She could streak over the grass faster than any other animal, and she took every chance to prove it, even though the older pronghorns watched her racing the wind and shook their heads. Dash never listened to advice, because she believed that speed could solve every problem.

One dry summer, the herd needed to reach a distant creek where water still flowed. The route crossed a ranch, and a long wire fence stretched across the open land. Dash charged ahead, and when she reached the fence, she skidded to a stop, because she could run for miles without tiring but she could not leap over the tall wires.

The herd gathered behind her, restless and thirsty, while Dash paced along the fence in frustration and complained that she was the fastest of them all and still could not cross a few strands of wire.

A small prairie dog popped up from a burrow beside the fence and squeaked that Dash was looking in the wrong direction. The bottom wire was smooth, she explained, and it was set higher at the next post, and pronghorns duck beneath fences all the time.

Dash felt her pride sting a little, because she had assumed that someone so small could not teach her anything. Still, she lowered her head and crept under the smooth wire, and one by one the herd followed, until soon they were all drinking at the creek.

Dash thanked the prairie dog sincerely. She had learned that speed carries an animal far, but listening shows it which way to go.

## Questions

**1. What was Dash known for?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did the herd need to cross the ranch?**

_____

_____

**3. What stopped Dash at the fence?**

_____

_____

**4. What advice did the prairie dog give?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Dash's pride sting?**

_____

_____

**6. What lesson does the story teach?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

prairie: a large, flat area covered in grass
streak: to move very fast in a straight line
restless: unable to stay still or relax
frustration: an upset feeling when you cannot do something
burrow: a hole or tunnel dug by an animal to live in

## 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 Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

Square group

Across a wide, windswept prairie, a young pronghorn named Dash was known throughout the herd for her extraordinary speed. She could streak over the grass faster than any other animal, and she seized every opportunity to prove it, even though the older pronghorns watched her racing the wind and shook their heads in disapproval. Dash never listened to advice, because she firmly believed that speed could solve every possible problem.

One dry summer, the herd needed to reach a distant creek where water still flowed. The route crossed a large ranch, and a long wire fence stretched across the open land. Dash charged ahead, and when she reached the fence, she skidded to an abrupt stop, because she could run for miles without tiring but she could not leap over the tall wires.

The herd gathered behind her, restless and thirsty, while Dash paced along the fence in frustration and complained that she was the fastest of them all and yet could not cross a few strands of wire.

A small prairie dog popped up from a burrow beside the fence and squeaked that Dash was looking in entirely the wrong direction. The bottom wire was smooth, she explained, and it was set higher at the next post, and pronghorns habitually duck beneath fences without any difficulty.

Dash felt her pride sting a little, because she had assumed that someone so small could not possibly teach her anything. Still, she lowered her head and crept under the smooth wire, and one by one the herd followed, until soon they were all drinking at the creek.

Dash thanked the prairie dog sincerely. She had learned that speed can carry an animal a long way, but that listening shows it which way to go.

## Questions

**1. What was Dash known for?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did the herd need to cross the ranch?**

_____

_____

**3. What stopped Dash at the fence?**

_____

_____

**4. What advice did the prairie dog give?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Dash's pride sting?**

_____

_____

**6. What lesson does the story teach?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

prairie: a large, flat area covered in grass
streak: to move very fast in a straight line
restless: unable to stay still or relax
frustration: an upset feeling when you cannot do something
burrow: a hole or tunnel dug by an animal to live in

## 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 Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

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

### Circle: The Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

Easier · 240 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Her speed.
2. They needed to reach a far creek where water still ran.
3. She could not jump the tall wires.
4. Go under the smooth bottom wire where it is higher at the next post.
5. She had thought someone so small could not teach her anything.
6. Listening to others can help you more than speed or pride.

### Triangle: The Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

This passage · 277 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. Her speed.
2. They needed to reach a distant creek where water still flowed.
3. She could not leap over the tall wires.
4. Duck under the smooth bottom wire where it was set higher at the next post.
5. She had assumed that someone so small could not teach her anything.
6. Listening to others can help you more than speed or pride alone.

### Square: The Pronghorn and the Ranch Fence

Harder · 292 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.3

1. Her extraordinary speed.
2. They needed to reach a distant creek where water still flowed.
3. She could not leap over the tall wires.
4. Duck under the smooth bottom wire where it was set higher at the next post.
5. She had assumed that someone so small could not possibly teach her anything.
6. Listening to others can help you more than speed or pride alone.