Name: _____ Date: _____

The Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

Circle group

The town seed library kept its envelopes in a wooden cabinet with tiny drawers. Hana loved to sort them each Saturday. Every envelope had seeds from a gardener. It also had a label with the plant name and the year the seeds were saved. One Saturday, Hana saw an envelope that looked wrong.

The label said "Purple Pole Beans." The top line was in slanting, careful writing. The year was in blocky capitals. "Two people wrote this," she told the librarian, Mr. Bellamy.

He held it under the lamp. "Then one person may have changed it," he said. "If the name is wrong, a gardener could grow something surprising."

Hana poured the seeds onto a white saucer. They were small, round, and speckled with brown. Bean seeds are shaped like little kidneys. These were not.

She checked a poster on the wall. The speckled seeds looked like tomatillos. "Someone wrote beans by mistake," she said.

The record cards showed the donor. Mrs. Quill had saved tomatillo seeds. A volunteer had copied her label in a hurry and written the wrong plant.

Hana fixed the label in her neat printing. She added a note about the fix. Then she put the envelope in the drawer for tomatillos.

Questions

1. What was inside each envelope besides seeds?

_____

_____

2. How did Hana know two people wrote the label?

_____

_____

3. What shape are real bean seeds?

_____

_____

4. How did Hana find out what the seeds really were?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mr. Bellamy say a wrong label could matter?

_____

_____

6. How did the mistake probably happen?

_____

_____

Words to know

speckled: marked with many tiny spots

volunteer: a person who helps without being paid

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 Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

Triangle group

The community seed library kept its envelopes in a wooden cabinet with tiny drawers, and Hana loved sorting them every Saturday. Each envelope held seeds donated by a gardener, along with a label that gave the name of the plant and the year it was saved. On this particular Saturday she noticed an envelope that looked wrong.

The label said "Purple Pole Beans," but the top line was written in a slanting, careful script, while the second line, which gave the year, was written in blocky capital letters. "Two people wrote this," she told the librarian, Mr. Bellamy.

He turned it over under the lamp. "Then one of them may have changed the label," he said, "and that could matter. If the plant name is wrong, a gardener could grow something unexpected."

Hana opened the envelope onto a white saucer. The seeds were small, round, and speckled with brown. Real bean seeds are shaped like little kidneys, and these looked nothing like that.

She compared them to a poster on the wall, and the speckled seeds matched a picture of tomatillos. "Somebody labeled these beans by mistake," she said.

They found the original donor's name on the record cards. A woman named Mrs. Quill had saved tomatillo seeds, and a volunteer had later copied her label onto a fresh envelope in a hurry and written the wrong plant on the top line.

Hana fixed the label in her own neat printing, added a note about the correction, and tucked the envelope into the drawer for tomatillos, where it belonged.

Questions

1. What did each seed envelope contain besides seeds?

_____

_____

2. How could Hana tell that two people had written the label?

_____

_____

3. What shape are real bean seeds?

_____

_____

4. How did Hana learn what the speckled seeds really were?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mr. Bellamy say a wrong label could matter?

_____

_____

6. How did the mistake probably happen?

_____

_____

Words to know

donated: given freely to help others
script: handwriting with joined, flowing letters
speckled: marked with many tiny spots
volunteer: a person who helps without being paid
correction: a change that fixes 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: _____

The Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

Square group

The community seed library kept its envelopes in a wooden cabinet fitted with dozens of tiny drawers, and Hana loved sorting them every Saturday. Each envelope held seeds donated by a local gardener, along with a label that recorded the name of the plant and the year in which the seeds had been saved. On this particular Saturday she noticed an envelope that looked distinctly wrong.

The label read "Purple Pole Beans," but the top line was written in a slanting, careful script, while the second line, which gave the year, was written in blocky capital letters. "Two different people wrote this," she told the librarian, Mr. Bellamy.

He turned the envelope over beneath the lamp. "Then one of them may have changed the label," he said, "and that could matter a great deal. If the plant name is wrong, a gardener could end up growing something entirely unexpected."

Hana emptied the envelope onto a white saucer. The seeds were small, round, and speckled with brown, whereas genuine bean seeds are shaped like little kidneys, and these looked nothing like that.

She compared them with a poster on the wall, and the speckled seeds matched a picture of tomatillos. "Somebody labeled these beans by mistake," she concluded.

They traced the original donor through the record cards. A woman named Mrs. Quill had saved tomatillo seeds, and a volunteer had later copied her label onto a fresh envelope in a hurry, writing the wrong plant on the top line.

Hana corrected the label in her own neat printing, added a brief note explaining the change, and tucked the envelope into the drawer for tomatillos, where it belonged.

Questions

1. What did each envelope contain in addition to seeds?

_____

_____

2. How could Hana tell that two people had written the label?

_____

_____

3. What shape do genuine bean seeds have?

_____

_____

4. How did Hana discover what the speckled seeds really were?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mr. Bellamy say that a wrong label could matter?

_____

_____

6. How did the mistake most likely happen?

_____

_____

Words to know

donated: given freely to help others
script: handwriting with joined, flowing letters
speckled: marked with many tiny spots
volunteer: a person who helps without being paid

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 Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

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

Circle: The Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

Easier · 206 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. A label with the plant name and the year the seeds were saved.
2. The top line was slanting and the year was in blocky capitals.
3. They are shaped like little kidneys.
4. She compared them to a poster, and they looked like tomatillos.
5. A gardener could plant the seeds and grow something surprising.
6. A volunteer copied the label in a hurry and wrote the wrong plant.

Triangle: The Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

This passage · 259 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8

1. A label with the name of the plant and the year it was saved.
2. The top line was in slanting script and the year was in blocky capitals.
3. They are shaped like little kidneys.
4. She compared them to a poster on the wall, and they matched tomatillos.
5. A gardener could plant it and grow something unexpected.
6. A volunteer copied the label onto a new envelope in a hurry and wrote the wrong plant name.

Square: The Seed Packet Labeled in Two Handwritings

Harder · 276 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.4

1. A label recording the plant name and the year the seeds were saved.
2. The top line was in slanting script and the year was in blocky capital letters.
3. They are shaped like little kidneys.
4. She compared them with a poster on the wall, and they matched tomatillos.
5. A gardener could plant the seeds and end up growing something entirely unexpected.
6. A volunteer copied the label onto a new envelope in a hurry and wrote the wrong plant name.