Name: _____ Date: _____

The Borrowed Violin

Circle group

Lena's fingers were cold. She waited outside the music room, and her heart was pounding. In ten minutes she would play for the orchestra audition. She had practiced the piece every night since September. She opened her case for one last check. Her stomach dropped. The A string had snapped in two. It curled up like a tiny silver spring.

Her teacher, Mrs. Brandt, was away at a conference. The nearest music store was across town. Lena looked down the hallway. At the far end, Pablo was zipping up his backpack. He was a quiet boy from the cello section. They sat in the same orchestra, but they had barely spoken all year.

"Is something wrong?" he asked. He saw the panic on her face.

"My string broke," Lena whispered. "I do not have a spare."

Pablo thought. "A cello string will not fit your violin." Then his eyes lit up. "But I keep my cousin's old violin in my locker. I keep it in case I need a practice partner. Would you like to borrow it?"

The borrowed violin was a little heavier than Lena's own. The strings felt new under her fingertips. She tuned it with care, took a long breath, and went into the room. The first notes wobbled. But by the second page her hands remembered what they knew. The music poured out strong and clear.

Afterward, Lena found Pablo in the hallway. She thanked him for rescuing her. "You did the playing," he said with a shy smile.

The next week, the two of them signed up to practice a duet. It would be one cello and one violin, in the music room after school.

Questions

1. What went wrong just before Lena's audition?

_____

_____

2. Where did Pablo keep his cousin's old violin?

_____

_____

3. How did Lena play by the second page?

_____

_____

4. Why did the first notes wobble?

_____

_____

5. What does the duet at the end tell you about Lena and Pablo?

_____

_____

Words to know

audition: a short performance to try out for a group
orchestra: a large group of musicians who play together
snapped: broke suddenly with a sharp sound
duet: a piece of music played by two people

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 Borrowed Violin

Triangle group

Lena's fingers were icy as she waited anxiously outside the music room, and her heart was pounding against her ribs. In ten minutes she would play for the orchestra audition, performing a piece that she had practiced every single night since September. She opened her case for one final check, and her stomach dropped. The A string had snapped in two, curling up like a tiny silver spring.

Her teacher, Mrs. Brandt, was away at a conference, and the nearest music store, which could have sold her a replacement, was clear across town. Lena looked helplessly down the hallway. At the far end, Pablo, a quiet boy from the cello section, was zipping up his backpack. Although they sat in the same orchestra, they had barely spoken all year.

"Is something wrong?" he asked, noticing the panic on her face.

"My string broke," Lena whispered, "and I do not have a spare."

Pablo thought for a moment. "A cello string will not fit your violin." Then his eyes lit up. "But I keep my cousin's old violin in my locker, in case I ever need a practice partner. Would you like to borrow it?"

The borrowed violin was slightly heavier than Lena's own, and the strings felt unfamiliar beneath her fingertips. She tuned it with great care, took a long breath, and walked into the audition room. The first notes wobbled nervously, but by the second page her hands remembered everything they had learned, and the melody poured out strong and clear.

Afterward, Lena found Pablo waiting in the hallway and thanked him sincerely for rescuing her. "You did the playing," he replied with a shy, modest smile.

The following week, the two musicians signed up to rehearse a duet together, one cello and one violin, in the music room after school.

Questions

1. What went wrong just before Lena's audition?

_____

_____

2. Where did Pablo keep his cousin's old violin?

_____

_____

3. How did Lena play on the second page?

_____

_____

4. Why did the first notes wobble?

_____

_____

5. What does the duet at the end suggest about Lena and Pablo?

_____

_____

Words to know

audition: a short performance to try out for a group
orchestra: a large group of musicians who play together
snapped: broke suddenly with a sharp sound
unfamiliar: not known or not used to yet
duet: a piece of music played by two people

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 Borrowed Violin

Square group

Lena's fingers were icy as she waited anxiously outside the music room, and her heart was pounding against her ribs. In ten minutes she would perform for the orchestra audition, playing a piece that she had practiced every single night since September. She opened her case for one final inspection, and her stomach dropped. The A string had snapped in two, curling up like a tiny silver spring.

Her teacher, Mrs. Brandt, was away at a conference, and the nearest music store, which could have sold her a replacement, was clear across town. Lena looked helplessly down the hallway. At the far end, Pablo, a quiet boy from the cello section, was zipping up his backpack. Although they sat in the same orchestra, they had barely exchanged a word all year.

"Is something wrong?" he asked, noticing the panic on her face.

"My string broke," Lena whispered, "and I do not have a spare."

Pablo considered the problem for a moment. "A cello string will not fit your violin." Then his eyes lit up. "But I keep my cousin's old violin in my locker, in case I ever need a practice partner. Would you like to borrow it?"

The borrowed violin was slightly heavier than Lena's own, and the strings felt unfamiliar beneath her fingertips. She tuned it with great care, took a long, steadying breath, and walked into the audition room. The first notes wobbled nervously, but by the second page her hands remembered everything they had learned, and the melody poured out strong and clear.

Afterward, Lena found Pablo waiting in the hallway and thanked him sincerely for rescuing her. "You did the playing," he replied with a shy, modest smile.

The following week, the two musicians signed up to rehearse a duet together, one cello and one violin, in the music room after school.

Questions

1. What problem did Lena discover just before her audition?

_____

_____

2. Where did Pablo keep his cousin's old violin?

_____

_____

3. How did Lena's playing change by the second page?

_____

_____

4. What caused the first notes to wobble?

_____

_____

5. What does the plan to rehearse a duet suggest about Lena and Pablo?

_____

_____

Words to know

audition: a short performance to try out for a group
orchestra: a large group of musicians who play together
snapped: broke suddenly with a sharp sound
unfamiliar: not known or not used to yet
duet: a piece of music played by two people

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 Borrowed Violin

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

Circle: The Borrowed Violin

Easier · 280 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. The A string on her violin snapped.
2. In his locker.
3. Strong and clear, because her hands remembered what they knew.
4. Lena was nervous, and the borrowed violin felt new to her.
5. They became friends.

Triangle: The Borrowed Violin

This passage · 302 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.7

1. The A string on her violin snapped.
2. In his locker.
3. Strong and clear, because her hands remembered what they knew.
4. Lena was nervous and the borrowed violin felt unfamiliar.
5. They became friends.

Square: The Borrowed Violin

Harder · 307 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. The A string on her violin had snapped in two.
2. In his locker, in case he needed a practice partner.
3. Her hands remembered what they had learned, and the melody came out strong and clear.
4. Lena was nervous, and the borrowed violin felt unfamiliar under her fingers.
5. That they had become friends.