Name: _____ Date: _____

The Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

Circle group

At the climbing gym, each route on the low wall had its own color of plastic holds. The purple holds were a problem that Vera had tried for three weeks. The wall leaned out like a roof. Each try ended the same way. Her fingers burned. Her arms shook. She dropped onto the thick foam pad below.

On her twentieth fall, she lay on her back and looked at the ceiling. "I'm just not strong enough," she said to nobody.

An older climber named Ansel was chalking his hands nearby. He looked up. "Can I tell you what I noticed?" Vera nodded, but she did not want to. "You keep pulling yourself up with your arms. Look at the second purple hold. Put your right foot high and push with your leg. Then your hips move closer to the wall. The reach is not far at all."

Vera got up and tried it. The move felt strange. She had to trust her foot more than her hands. The first try failed. So did the second. On the third, she put her toe on a small hold and pushed through her heel. Her body swung in toward the wall. Her hand closed on the next hold with room to spare.

She kept going, past the awkward middle, to the last hold. She touched it with both hands to finish. A small cheer rose from the people stretching on the mats.

"Not strength," Ansel said with a grin. "Just a better plan for your feet."

Questions

1. How long had Vera tried the purple route?

_____

_____

2. Why was the wall hard to climb?

_____

_____

3. What did Vera think her problem was?

_____

_____

4. What did Ansel tell her to do with her right foot?

_____

_____

5. Why did the new move feel strange to Vera?

_____

_____

6. What does Ansel mean by a better plan for your feet?

_____

_____

Words to know

problem: a short climbing route that must be figured out
chalking: putting powder on hands to keep them dry and grippy
awkward: uncomfortable and hard to handle

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 Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

Triangle group

At the climbing gym, every route on the low wall was marked with colored plastic holds, and the purple ones belonged to a problem that Vera had been trying for three weeks. The wall leaned outward like a roof, so each attempt ended the same way, with her fingers burning, her arms shaking. Her body dropping onto the thick foam pad below. On her twentieth fall she lay on her back, stared at the ceiling, and announced to nobody in particular that she was just not strong enough.

An older climber named Ansel, who had been chalking his hands nearby, glanced up and asked whether he could tell her what he had noticed. Vera nodded reluctantly. He pointed out that she kept trying to haul herself upward with her arms, and he suggested that if she put her right foot high on the second purple hold and pushed with her leg, her hips would move closer to the wall, and then the reach would not be far at all.

Vera got up and tried it. The move felt strange, because it meant trusting her foot more than her hands. Her first attempt failed, and so did her second, but on the third she placed her toe carefully on a small hold, pressed through her heel, and felt her body swing inward as though the wall had pulled her closer. Her hand closed around the next hold with room to spare, and she kept going, past the awkward middle and onto the last hold, which she touched with both hands to finish. A tiny cheer rose from the people stretching on the mats. Ansel grinned and told her that it was not strength, just a better plan for her feet.

Questions

1. How long had Vera been trying the purple route?

_____

_____

2. Why was the wall especially hard to climb?

_____

_____

3. What did Vera believe was her problem?

_____

_____

4. What did Ansel suggest she do with her right foot?

_____

_____

5. Why did Vera feel strange trying the new move?

_____

_____

6. What does Ansel mean by a better plan for your feet?

_____

_____

Words to know

problem: a short climbing route that must be figured out
chalking: putting powder on hands to keep them dry and grippy
reluctantly: in a way that shows you do not really want to
haul: to pull something heavy with effort
awkward: uncomfortable and hard to handle

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 Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

Square group

At the climbing gym, every route on the low wall was marked with colored plastic holds, and the purple ones belonged to a problem that Vera had been trying for three weeks. The wall leaned outward like a roof, so each attempt ended the same way, with her fingers burning, her arms shaking. Her body dropping onto the thick foam pad below. On her twentieth fall she lay on her back, stared at the ceiling, and announced to nobody in particular that she was just not strong enough.

An older climber named Ansel, who had been chalking his hands nearby, glanced up and asked whether he could tell her what he had noticed. Vera nodded reluctantly. He pointed out that she kept trying to haul herself upward with her arms, and he suggested that if she put her right foot high on the second purple hold and pushed with her leg, her hips would move closer to the wall, and then the reach would not be far at all.

Vera got up and attempted it. The move felt unfamiliar, because it meant trusting her foot more than her hands, and her first attempt failed, and so did her second, but on the third she placed her toe carefully on a modest hold, pressed through her heel, and felt her body swing inward as though the wall had pulled her closer. Her hand closed around the next hold with room to spare, and she kept going, past the awkward middle and onto the last hold, which she touched with both hands to finish. A tiny cheer rose from the people stretching on the mats. Ansel grinned and told her that it was not strength, just a better plan for her feet.

Questions

1. How long had Vera been attempting the purple route?

_____

_____

2. What made the wall especially difficult to climb?

_____

_____

3. What did Vera believe was holding her back?

_____

_____

4. What did Ansel advise her to do with her right foot?

_____

_____

5. Why did the new move feel unnatural to Vera?

_____

_____

6. What does Ansel mean by a better plan for your feet?

_____

_____

Words to know

problem: a short climbing route that must be figured out
chalking: putting powder on hands to keep them dry and grippy
reluctantly: in a way that shows you do not really want to
haul: to pull something heavy with effort
awkward: uncomfortable and hard to handle

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 Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

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

Circle: The Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

Easier · 253 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. Three weeks.
2. It leaned out like a roof.
3. She thought she was not strong enough.
4. Put it high and push with her leg.
5. She had to trust her foot more than her hands.
6. Good footwork can solve a climb, not just strength.

Triangle: The Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

This passage · 289 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. Three weeks.
2. It leaned outward like a roof.
3. She thought she was not strong enough.
4. Put it high and push with her leg.
5. It meant trusting her foot more than her hands.
6. Using smart footwork can solve a climb instead of relying only on strength.

Square: The Purple Route on the Slanted Wall

Harder · 290 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.8

1. Three consecutive weeks.
2. It leaned outward like a roof.
3. She believed she was not strong enough.
4. Place it high and push with her leg.
5. It required her to trust her foot more than her hands.
6. Smart footwork can solve a climb instead of relying only on strength.