Name: _____ Date: _____

Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

Circle group

Every Thursday, Mina helped Mr. Okafor check the six hives at the edge of his orchard. Her best job was lighting the smoker. It is a small metal can that puffs cool smoke to keep the bees calm. But today the smoker was not on its nail in the shed.

Mr. Okafor scratched his white beard. "I put it there on Sunday," he said. "Tools do not walk away."

Mina treated it like a real case. She looked in the shed. She found spare frames and a jar of honey with a crooked label. Then she walked toward the hives. The grass behind the third hive was flat in a neat circle. In the middle sat the smoker. It was still a little warm.

"Someone lit it this week," she said.

Next to the can were a small feather and some crumbs of seed cake. Mina looked up. Lola, Mr. Okafor's granddaughter, was peeking from behind the compost bin. She had ash on her cheek.

Lola said she wanted to practice for summer, when she could help with the hives. She tried the smoker behind the third hive. Then her mother called her to supper, and she forgot to put it back.

"Next Thursday," Mr. Okafor said, smiling, "you may both hold it."

Questions

1. What does a smoker do?

_____

_____

2. Where did Mina find the smoker?

_____

_____

3. What clues were near the smoker?

_____

_____

4. Who borrowed the smoker, and why?

_____

_____

5. How did Mina know someone had used the smoker?

_____

_____

6. How does Mr. Okafor feel about what Lola did?

_____

_____

Words to know

smoker: a metal can that puffs smoke to calm bees

compost: a pile of old plants and food scraps that turns into soil

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: _____

Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

Triangle group

Every Thursday, Mina helped Mr. Okafor inspect the six wooden hives at the edge of his orchard, and her favorite responsibility was lighting the smoker, a small metal can with a bellows that puffs cool smoke to keep the bees calm. On this particular Thursday, however, the smoker was not hanging on its nail inside the shed.

Mr. Okafor scratched his white beard thoughtfully. "I put it there myself on Sunday," he said. "Tools do not simply walk away on their own."

Mina decided to treat the problem like a genuine investigation. She searched the shed first and found nothing except spare frames and a jar of honey with a crooked label, so she walked the path toward the hives and noticed something unusual about the grass behind the third one. Someone had flattened it into a neat circle, and in the middle of that circle sat the smoker, still faintly warm.

"Somebody was here this week," she said, "and they lit it."

Next to the can lay a small feather and a few crumbs of seed cake. When Mina looked up, she saw Mr. Okafor's granddaughter Lola peeking from behind the compost bin with a smudge of ash on her cheek.

Lola confessed that she had wanted to practice before the summer, when she would finally be allowed to help with the hives. She had borrowed the smoker, tried it behind the third hive where no bees would mind, and then forgotten to return it after her mother called her inside for supper.

"Next Thursday," Mr. Okafor said with a warm smile, "you may both hold it together."

Questions

1. What is a smoker used for?

_____

_____

2. Where did Mina finally find the missing smoker?

_____

_____

3. What clues were lying near the smoker?

_____

_____

4. Who had borrowed the smoker, and why?

_____

_____

5. How did Mina know someone had used the smoker that week?

_____

_____

6. How does Mr. Okafor feel about what Lola did?

_____

_____

Words to know

smoker: a metal can that puffs smoke to calm bees
bellows: a squeezable tool that pushes out a puff of air
investigation: a careful search to find out what happened
compost: a pile of old plants and food scraps that turns into soil
confessed: admitted to having done something

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: _____

Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

Square group

Every Thursday, Mina assisted Mr. Okafor with the inspection of the six wooden hives at the far edge of his orchard, and her favorite responsibility was lighting the smoker, a small metal can fitted with a bellows that puffs cool smoke to keep the bees calm and unbothered. On this particular Thursday, however, the smoker was nowhere to be found on its nail inside the shed.

Mr. Okafor scratched his white beard thoughtfully. "I hung it there myself on Sunday," he said. "Tools do not simply walk away on their own."

Mina decided to treat the problem as a genuine investigation. She searched the shed first and found nothing except spare frames and a jar of honey with a crooked label, so she followed the path toward the hives and noticed something unusual about the grass behind the third one. Someone had pressed it into a perfectly neat circle, and in the middle of that circle sat the smoker, still faintly warm to the touch.

"Somebody was here this week," she announced, "and they lit it."

Beside the can lay a small feather and a scattering of seed-cake crumbs. When Mina glanced upward, she spotted Mr. Okafor's granddaughter Lola peeking out from behind the compost bin with a smudge of ash across her cheek.

Lola confessed that she had been eager to practice before the summer, when she would finally be permitted to help with the hives. She had borrowed the smoker and tried it behind the third hive, where no bees would mind, but her mother had called her in for supper and she had forgotten to return it.

"Next Thursday," Mr. Okafor said with a warm smile, "you may both hold it together."

Questions

1. What is the purpose of a smoker in beekeeping?

_____

_____

2. Where did Mina finally discover the missing smoker?

_____

_____

3. Which clues were lying beside the smoker?

_____

_____

4. Who had borrowed the smoker, and what was her reason?

_____

_____

5. How could Mina tell that someone had used the smoker recently?

_____

_____

6. What does Mr. Okafor's reaction suggest about his feelings?

_____

_____

Words to know

smoker: a metal can that puffs smoke to calm bees
bellows: a squeezable tool that pushes out a puff of air
investigation: a careful search to find out what happened
compost: a pile of old plants and food scraps that turns into soil
confessed: admitted to having done something

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: Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

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

Circle: Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

Easier · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. It puffs cool smoke to keep the bees calm.
2. In a flat circle of grass behind the third hive.
3. A small feather and some crumbs of seed cake.
4. Lola, who wanted to practice before she could help with the hives.
5. It was still a little warm and sat in a flat patch of grass.
6. He is not angry. He smiles and lets both girls hold it.

Triangle: Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

This passage · 269 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.4

1. Puffing cool smoke to keep the bees calm.
2. In a flattened circle of grass behind the third hive.
3. A small feather and a few crumbs of seed cake.
4. Lola, who wanted to practice before she was allowed to help with the hives.
5. It was still faintly warm and sat in a freshly flattened patch of grass.
6. He is not angry; he smiles and lets the girls hold the smoker together.

Square: Who Moved the Smoker Behind the Beehives?

Harder · 286 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.1

1. It puffs cool smoke that keeps the bees calm.
2. In a neat circle of flattened grass behind the third hive.
3. A small feather and a scattering of seed-cake crumbs.
4. Lola, who wanted to practice before she was allowed to help with the hives.
5. It was still faintly warm and rested in a freshly flattened patch of grass.
6. He is not angry; he smiles and invites both girls to hold the smoker together.