Name _____ Date _____

The Science Fair Surprise

3rd Grade reading passage 1 · story

Priya had worked on her volcano for two weeks. On the morning of the science fair, she carried it carefully to the gym.

When it was her turn, she poured in the vinegar. Nothing happened. Priya's face turned red. Kids started to whisper.

Priya took a deep breath. "I think I know what went wrong," she said. She checked the jar and found she had used salt instead of baking soda. She added the baking soda, and foam rushed over the top.

The judges didn't give her first place, but one wrote on her card: "Great problem solving!" Priya kept that card on her wall for years.

Questions

1. What was Priya's problem?

2. What caused the problem?

3. Name a character trait for Priya and give proof.

4. How did Priya feel when nothing happened? How do you know?

5. Why did Priya keep the card?

Name _____ Date _____

Animals in Winter

3rd Grade reading passage 2 · nonfiction

Winter is hard for animals. Food is scarce and the weather is cold. Animals have different ways to survive.

Some animals migrate, or travel to warmer places. Many birds fly south each fall and return in spring.

Other animals hibernate. Bears, bats and woodchucks go into a deep sleep. Their hearts beat slowly, so they use very little energy.

Some animals adapt and stay active. Snowshoe hares grow white fur to hide in the snow, and squirrels eat nuts they buried in the fall.

Questions

1. What is the main idea?

2. What does migrate mean?

3. Why do hibernating animals use little energy?

4. Compare: how are bears and squirrels different in winter?

5. Is this text written to inform, persuade or entertain?

Name _____ Date _____

Should Our School Have a Garden?

3rd Grade reading passage 3 · nonfiction

Our school should build a garden. A garden would teach us where food comes from. We could plant seeds, water them and watch them grow.

A garden would also help us eat healthier. Kids are more likely to try vegetables they grew themselves.

Some people say a garden is too much work. But each class could take one week to care for it, so no one would have too much to do.

A school garden is the best way to learn outside the classroom. Let's start one this spring!

Questions

1. What does the author want?

2. What is the author's purpose?

3. Write one fact from the text.

4. Write one opinion from the text.

5. What reason does the author give against the garden, and how do they answer it?

Answer Key

1. The Science Fair Surprise

1. Her volcano didn't erupt.
2. She used salt instead of baking soda.
3. Calm or determined: she took a deep breath and figured out what went wrong.
4. Embarrassed: her face turned red.
5. She was proud of solving the problem.

2. Animals in Winter

1. Animals have different ways to survive winter.
2. To travel to a warmer place.
3. Their hearts beat slowly in a deep sleep.
4. Bears hibernate; squirrels stay active and eat stored nuts.
5. Inform.

3. Should Our School Have a Garden?

1. A school garden.
2. To persuade.
3. Answers will vary, such as: seeds need water to grow.
4. A school garden is the best way to learn outside the classroom.
5. Some say it's too much work; each class could take one week.