Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Ladle That Left Soup Night

Circle group

On the first Friday of each month, the firehouse had Soup Night. Neighbors brought bowls. Dev, the cook, stirred a huge pot with a long silver ladle.

This time, the ladle was gone. Only the hook was left. "It was here a minute ago," said Dev.

Kit, his helper, looked at the floor. Small orange drops led away from the stove. The soup was tomato. "Follow me," she said.

The drops went past the tables. They went past the red truck. They went out the side door. On the porch sat Gran Mabel in a rocking chair. She held a hot cup. She also held the ladle.

"The cold crowd out here wanted a taste," said Gran. "I brought it to them."

Dev laughed. He put the ladle back on its hook.

## Questions

**1. When was Soup Night?**

_____

_____

**2. What color were the drops?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did the drops lead?**

_____

_____

**4. Who had the ladle?**

_____

_____

**5. How did Kit know the drops came from the ladle?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Gran Mabel take the ladle outside?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

ladle: a big spoon with a deep bowl for serving soup
firehouse: a building where firefighters work and keep trucks
porch: a covered area at the front or side of a building

## 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 Ladle That Left Soup Night

Triangle group

On the first Friday of every month, the firehouse held Soup Night. Neighbors brought bowls, and the cook, Dev, stirred a huge pot with a long silver ladle.

This time, Dev reached for the ladle and found only the empty hook. "It was here a minute ago," he said.

Kit, the cook's helper, studied the floor. Tiny orange drops led away from the stove. The soup was tomato, so the drops had to be from the ladle. "Follow me," she said.

The trail went past the long tables, past the shiny red truck, and out through the side door. On the porch, they found Gran Mabel sitting in a rocking chair. She held a steaming cup in one hand. In the other hand, she held the ladle.

"The cold crowd out here wanted a taste," Gran said. "I just brought the whole pot's worth, one spoonful at a time."

Dev laughed. He gave her a cup of her own and carried the ladle back to its hook.

## Questions

**1. How often did the firehouse hold Soup Night?**

_____

_____

**2. What color were the drops on the floor?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did the trail lead?**

_____

_____

**4. Who had the ladle at the end?**

_____

_____

**5. How did Kit know the drops came from the ladle?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do you think Gran Mabel took the ladle outside?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

ladle: a big spoon with a deep bowl for serving soup
firehouse: a building where firefighters work and keep trucks
studied: looked at something very carefully
trail: a line of marks that you can follow
porch: a covered area at the front or side of a building

## 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 Ladle That Left Soup Night

Square group

On the first Friday of every month, the firehouse hosted Soup Night. Neighbors arrived with their own bowls, and the cook, Dev, stirred an enormous pot with a long silver ladle.

This time, when Dev reached for the ladle, he found nothing but an empty hook. "It was hanging right here a minute ago," he said, scratching his head.

Kit, the cook's helper, crouched and studied the floor. A trail of tiny orange drops led away from the stove. Since the soup was tomato, the drops could only have fallen from the ladle. "Follow me," she announced.

The trail wound past the long tables, past the gleaming red fire truck, and out through the side door. On the porch, they discovered Gran Mabel rocking in a chair. She cradled a steaming cup in one hand, and in the other she held the missing ladle.

"The people out here in the cold wanted a taste," Gran explained. "So I brought them soup, one spoonful at a time."

Dev burst out laughing, poured her a cup of her own, and carried the ladle back to its hook.

## Questions

**1. How often did the firehouse host Soup Night?**

_____

_____

**2. What color were the drops that led away from the stove?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did the trail of drops lead?**

_____

_____

**4. Who was holding the ladle at the end?**

_____

_____

**5. How did Kit figure out that the drops had fallen from the ladle?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do you think Gran Mabel carried the ladle outside?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

ladle: a big spoon with a deep bowl for serving soup
firehouse: a building where firefighters work and keep trucks
studied: looked at something very carefully
trail: a line of marks that you can follow
porch: a covered area at the front or side of a building

## 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 Ladle That Left Soup Night

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

### Circle: The Ladle That Left Soup Night

Easier · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. On the first Friday of each month.
2. Orange.
3. Out the side door to the porch.
4. Gran Mabel.
5. The soup was tomato, and the drops were orange.
6. She wanted to give soup to people who were out in the cold.

### Triangle: The Ladle That Left Soup Night

This passage · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. On the first Friday of every month.
2. Orange.
3. Out the side door to the porch.
4. Gran Mabel.
5. The soup was tomato, so the orange drops matched the ladle.
6. She wanted to share soup with people sitting out in the cold.

### Square: The Ladle That Left Soup Night

Harder · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. On the first Friday of every month.
2. Orange.
3. Out the side door to the porch.
4. Gran Mabel.
5. The soup was tomato, so the orange drops matched the ladle.
6. She wanted to share soup with the people sitting out in the cold.