Name: _____ Date: _____

Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

Circle group

Marisol's grandmother gave her a jar of bubbly dough. It is called a starter. "Feed it flour and water each day," Grandma said. "It will make bread rise."

Marisol wrote in a notebook. The first time, she forgot to feed the starter for two days. The bread was flat and hard like a brick. Her brother knocked on it. "Anyone home?" he asked.

The second time, the dough was too wet. It slid off the counter. The third time, she baked it too long. The bottom turned black.

By page seventeen, Marisol was tired. She almost wrote "I quit."

Instead, she read her old notes. She saw a pattern. The best bubbles came on warm days. On cold days, the starter did nothing.

On try number eighteen, she put the dough by the sunny window. She waited all afternoon. The loaf came out tall and golden. It smelled great.

Her brother knocked on it. It made a hollow sound. "Someone's home," he said. He asked for more.

Questions

1. What did Marisol's grandmother give her?

_____

_____

2. Why was the first loaf flat?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong with the third loaf?

_____

_____

4. Where did Marisol write down what she did?

_____

_____

5. What pattern did Marisol see in her notes?

_____

_____

6. How did her old notes help her?

_____

_____

7. What did the hollow sound tell her brother?

_____

_____

Words to know

starter: a mix of flour and water that helps bread rise
rise: to puff up and grow bigger
hollow: empty inside, like a drum

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: _____

Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

Triangle group

Marisol's grandmother gave her a jar of sticky, bubbly dough called a starter. "Feed it flour and water every day," Grandma said, "and it will make bread rise."

Marisol wrote everything in a notebook. On the first try, she forgot to feed the starter for two days. The loaf came out flat and hard, like a brick. Her brother knocked on it and said, "Anyone home?"

On the second try, the dough was so wet that it slid off the counter. On the third, she baked it too long, and the bottom turned black.

By the seventeenth page of her notebook, Marisol was tired. She almost wrote "I quit" at the top of the next page.

Instead, she read her notes from the beginning. She noticed something. The best bubbles always came on the days when the kitchen was warm. On cold days, the starter just sat there and did nothing.

So on the eighteenth try, she set the dough near the sunny window. She waited all afternoon. When she opened the oven, the loaf was tall and golden, and it smelled wonderful.

Her brother knocked on it again. This time it made a hollow, happy sound. "Someone's home," he said, and he asked for a second slice.

Questions

1. What did Marisol's grandmother give her?

_____

_____

2. Why was the first loaf flat and hard?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong with the third loaf?

_____

_____

4. Where did Marisol keep all her records?

_____

_____

5. What pattern did Marisol find when she read her notes?

_____

_____

6. How did reading her old notes help her?

_____

_____

7. What did the hollow sound of the last loaf tell her brother?

_____

_____

Words to know

starter: a mix of flour and water that helps bread rise
rise: to puff up and grow bigger
hollow: empty inside, like a drum
noticed: saw or realized 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: _____

Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

Square group

Marisol's grandmother presented her with a jar of sticky, bubbling dough known as a starter. "Feed it a little flour and water every single day," Grandma explained, "and it will teach your bread to rise."

Marisol recorded everything in a notebook. On her first attempt, she neglected to feed the starter for two whole days, and the loaf emerged flat and hard as a brick. Her brother rapped his knuckles on it and asked, "Anyone home?"

On the second attempt, the dough was so wet that it slid right off the counter. On the third, she left the bread in the oven for too long, and the bottom turned completely black.

By the seventeenth page of her notebook, Marisol was exhausted and discouraged. She very nearly wrote the words "I quit" at the top of the next page.

Instead, she decided to reread her notes from the very beginning, and she noticed a pattern. The liveliest bubbles always appeared on days when the kitchen was warm, while on cold days the starter merely sat there, doing nothing at all.

So on her eighteenth try, she placed the dough beside the sunny window and waited patiently through the afternoon. When she finally opened the oven door, the loaf was tall and golden, and the whole kitchen smelled wonderful.

Her brother knocked on it once more. This time it made a hollow, cheerful sound. "Someone's home," he declared, and he asked for a second slice.

Questions

1. What did Marisol's grandmother present to her?

_____

_____

2. Why did the first loaf come out flat and hard?

_____

_____

3. What went wrong with the third loaf?

_____

_____

4. Where did Marisol record everything she did?

_____

_____

5. What pattern did Marisol discover when she reread her notes?

_____

_____

6. How did rereading her notes help Marisol?

_____

_____

7. What did the hollow sound of the last loaf suggest to her brother?

_____

_____

Words to know

starter: a mix of flour and water that helps bread rise
rise: to puff up and grow bigger
hollow: empty inside, like a drum
noticed: saw or realized 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: Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

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

Circle: Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

Easier · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. A jar of bubbly dough called a starter.
2. Marisol forgot to feed the starter for two days.
3. She baked it too long and the bottom turned black.
4. In a notebook.
5. The best bubbles came on warm days.
6. They showed that warmth mattered, so she used a sunny spot.
7. The bread was full of air and baked well.

Triangle: Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

This passage · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. A jar of bubbly dough called a starter.
2. Marisol forgot to feed the starter for two days.
3. She baked it too long and the bottom turned black.
4. In a notebook.
5. The best bubbles came on warm days.
6. It showed her that warmth mattered, so she put the dough in a sunny spot.
7. The bread had risen well and was full of air, so it was baked properly.

Square: Seventeen Pages of Sourdough

Harder · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. A jar of sticky, bubbling dough called a starter.
2. Marisol neglected to feed the starter for two whole days.
3. She left it in the oven too long and the bottom turned black.
4. In a notebook.
5. The liveliest bubbles appeared on warm days.
6. It revealed that warmth mattered, so she placed the dough in a sunny spot.
7. The loaf had risen well, was full of air and was properly baked.