Name: _____ Date: _____

Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

Circle group

Ruth's father worked nights at a bakery, so their family clock ran backward. When Ruth ate cereal at seven in the morning, Dad was just coming home, tired and covered in flour. When Ruth sat down to dinner at six, Dad was only waking up.

For a long time, Ruth thought this was unfair. They hardly ever ate a meal together.

Then she had an idea. Saturday was Dad's day off. She would not wait for dinner. She pulled out her mother's old recipe cards and made a plan.

"We're having breakfast for dinner," she said. "But at nine in the evening. You'll be awake, and I'm allowed to stay up."

Dad blinked. "That's very late for dinner."

"That's the point," said Ruth.

They made pancakes shaped like lopsided stars. Ruth flipped most of them. Dad kept the pan from smoking. They ate slowly, with syrup on the table and the radio playing low.

"I like our backward clock," Dad said.

"Me too," said Ruth.

Now every Saturday night, their kitchen is the only one on the street with its lights on. A stack of pancakes sits in the middle. Their clock still runs backward, but now it has a place to meet.

Questions

1. Where did Ruth's father work?

_____

_____

2. Why did the family hardly ever eat together?

_____

_____

3. What time did Ruth pick for the special meal?

_____

_____

4. What shape were the pancakes?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ruth pick Saturday for the plan?

_____

_____

6. What does Ruth mean when she says their clock now has a place to meet?

_____

_____

Words to know

bakery: a place where bread and cakes are baked
backward: turned the opposite way from usual
lopsided: uneven, with one side bigger or lower
recipe: directions for how to make food

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: _____

Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

Triangle group

Ruth's father worked nights at a bakery, so their family clock ran backward. When Ruth ate cereal at seven in the morning, Dad was just coming home, tired and covered in flour. When Ruth sat down to dinner at six, Dad was only waking up.

For a long time, Ruth thought this was unfair. They hardly ever ate a meal together.

Then she had an idea. On Saturdays, Dad's day off, she would not wait for dinner. She pulled out her mother's old recipe cards and made a plan.

"We're having breakfast for dinner," she announced. "But we're doing it at nine in the evening, when you're awake and I'm still allowed to stay up."

Dad blinked. "That's very late for a Saturday dinner."

"That's the point," said Ruth.

They made pancakes shaped like lopsided stars. Ruth flipped most of them, and Dad kept the pan from smoking. They ate slowly, with syrup on the table and the radio playing low.

"I like our backward clock," Dad said.

"Me too," said Ruth.

Now every Saturday night, their kitchen is the only one on the street with its lights on and a stack of pancakes in the middle. Their family clock still runs backward, but now it has a place to meet.

Questions

1. Where did Ruth's father work?

_____

_____

2. Why did the family hardly ever eat a meal together?

_____

_____

3. What time did Ruth choose for the special meal?

_____

_____

4. What shape were the pancakes?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ruth choose Saturday for the plan?

_____

_____

6. What does Ruth mean when she says their clock now has a place to meet?

_____

_____

Words to know

bakery: a place where bread and cakes are baked
backward: turned the opposite way from usual
lopsided: uneven, with one side bigger or lower
recipe: directions for how to make food

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: _____

Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

Square group

Ruth's father worked the night shift at a bakery, so the family's clock ran entirely backward. When Ruth ate her cereal at seven in the morning, Dad was only just arriving home, exhausted and dusted with flour. When Ruth sat down to dinner at six, Dad was only beginning to wake up.

For a long time, Ruth considered this arrangement unfair. The two of them hardly ever shared a meal.

Then she came up with an idea. Saturday was Dad's day off, and she would not wait around for an ordinary dinner. She pulled out her mother's old recipe cards and drew up a plan.

"We're having breakfast for dinner," she announced. "But we're doing it at nine in the evening, when you're awake and I'm still allowed to stay up."

Dad blinked at her. "That's a very late hour for a Saturday dinner."

"That's the whole point," said Ruth.

Together they made pancakes shaped like lopsided stars. Ruth flipped most of them, while Dad made sure the pan did not smoke. They ate slowly, with syrup on the table and the radio playing softly in the background.

"I like our backward clock," Dad said.

"Me too," said Ruth.

Now, every Saturday night, theirs is the only kitchen on the street with its lights still glowing and a tall stack of pancakes in the middle of the table. Their family clock still runs backward, but now it has a place where the hands can meet.

Questions

1. Where did Ruth's father work, and when?

_____

_____

2. Why did the family hardly ever share a meal?

_____

_____

3. What time did Ruth choose for the special meal?

_____

_____

4. What shape were the pancakes they made?

_____

_____

5. Why did Ruth choose Saturday for her plan?

_____

_____

6. What does Ruth's idea that the clock has a place to meet suggest?

_____

_____

Words to know

bakery: a place where bread and cakes are baked
backward: turned the opposite way from usual
lopsided: uneven, with one side bigger or lower
recipe: directions for how to make food

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: Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

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

Circle: Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

Easier · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. At a bakery, at night.
2. Dad slept in the day and worked at night, so their times did not match.
3. Nine in the evening.
4. Lopsided stars.
5. It was Dad's day off, so he was awake and free.
6. Their different schedules come together at one shared meal each week.

Triangle: Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

This passage · 211 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. At a bakery, at night.
2. Dad slept during the day and worked at night, so their schedules did not match.
3. Nine in the evening.
4. Lopsided stars.
5. It was Dad's day off, so he was awake and free to join her.
6. Their different schedules finally come together at one shared meal each week.

Square: Breakfast for Dinner on Dad's Night Shift

Harder · 245 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. At a bakery, during the night shift.
2. Dad slept during the day and worked at night, so their schedules did not match.
3. Nine in the evening.
4. Lopsided stars.
5. It was Dad's day off, so he was awake and free to join her.
6. Their different schedules finally come together at one shared meal each week.