Name: _____ Date: _____

The Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

Circle group

Brindle the dragon lived behind Mrs. Fenn's bakery. She was friendly, but she was careful, too. Her breath was so hot that it had once toasted a whole row of the baker's muffins into black stones.

One frosty morning, the big oven broke. The fair was only a day away, and forty loaves of bread had to rise. Bread dough needs a warm place to grow. In the cold bakery, the dough sat flat and sad.

"If only I had a gentle fire," Mrs. Fenn sighed.

Brindle's tail twitched. "I could try," she said. "But I might burn everything."

She thought of how she fogged a window on a cold day. That kind of breath was not fire at all. It was only warm air. Brindle took a deep breath and let it out as slowly as a sleepy yawn.

A soft, warm cloud drifted over the bowls. The dough did not burn. Instead, it puffed up a little. Brindle kept breathing, one slow sigh after another, and the dough rose higher and higher until it peeked over the rims of the bowls.

By sunset, the loaves were ready for baking in a neighbor's oven. Mrs. Fenn gave Brindle the first warm slice. "You are not a flame," she said. "You are a warm morning."

Questions

1. Why was Brindle careful about her breath?

_____

_____

2. What was wrong with the bakery on the frosty morning?

_____

_____

3. What does bread dough need in order to rise?

_____

_____

4. How did Brindle make her breath gentle?

_____

_____

5. Why did the dough puff up instead of burn?

_____

_____

6. What does Mrs. Fenn mean when she says Brindle is a warm morning?

_____

_____

Words to know

bakery: a shop where bread and cakes are made and sold
dough: a soft mix of flour and water that becomes bread
rise: to swell up and get bigger
gentle: soft and careful, not rough
rims: the top edges of a bowl or cup

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 Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

Triangle group

Brindle the dragon lived in a snug shed behind Mrs. Fenn's bakery. She was friendly and good-natured, but she was always careful, too. Her breath was so ferociously hot that it had once toasted an entire row of the baker's muffins into black stones.

One frosty morning, the big oven cracked and stopped working. The fair was only a day away, and forty loaves of bread still needed to rise. Bread dough requires a warm place to grow, and in the freezing bakery, it sat flat and miserable.

"If only I had a gentle fire," Mrs. Fenn sighed heavily.

Brindle's tail twitched nervously. "I could try," she said. "But I might burn everything to cinders."

Then she remembered how she fogged a window on a cold day. That kind of breath was not fire at all. It was merely warm air. Brindle drew in a deep breath and released it as slowly as a sleepy yawn.

A soft, warm cloud drifted over the bowls. The dough did not burn. Instead, it swelled a little. Brindle kept breathing, one slow sigh after another, and the dough climbed higher and higher until it peeked over the rims of the bowls.

By sunset, the loaves were ready for baking in a neighbor's oven. Mrs. Fenn handed Brindle the first warm slice. "You are not a flame," she said fondly. "You are a warm morning."

Questions

1. Why was Brindle always careful about her breath?

_____

_____

2. What went wrong in the bakery on the frosty morning?

_____

_____

3. What does bread dough require in order to rise?

_____

_____

4. How did Brindle soften her breath?

_____

_____

5. Why did the dough swell instead of burn?

_____

_____

6. What does Mrs. Fenn mean by calling Brindle a warm morning?

_____

_____

Words to know

bakery: a shop where bread and cakes are made and sold
dough: a soft mix of flour and water that becomes bread
rise: to swell up and get bigger
gentle: soft and careful, not rough
rims: the top edges of a bowl or cup

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 Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

Square group

Brindle the dragon lived in a snug shed behind Mrs. Fenn's bakery, and although she was friendly and good-natured, she was also extremely cautious. Her breath was so ferociously hot that it had once toasted an entire row of the baker's muffins into lumps of black stone.

One frosty morning, the enormous oven cracked and refused to work. The harvest fair was only a day away, and forty loaves of bread still needed to rise. Dough requires a warm place in which to grow, and in the freezing bakery it sat flat and miserable.

"If only I had a gentle fire," Mrs. Fenn sighed heavily.

Brindle's tail twitched nervously. "I could try," she offered, "but I might burn everything to cinders."

Then she remembered how she fogged windows on cold days. That kind of breath was not fire whatsoever, merely warm air. Brindle drew in a tremendous breath and released it as slowly as a sleepy yawn.

A soft, warm cloud drifted across the bowls. The dough did not burn. Instead, it swelled gradually. Brindle continued breathing, one slow sigh after another, and the dough climbed higher and higher until it peeked over the rims of the bowls.

By sunset, the loaves were ready for baking in a neighbor's oven. Mrs. Fenn handed Brindle the very first warm slice. "You are not a flame," she said affectionately. "You are a warm morning."

Questions

1. Why was Brindle always careful about her breath?

_____

_____

2. What went wrong in the bakery on the frosty morning?

_____

_____

3. What does bread dough require in order to rise?

_____

_____

4. How did Brindle soften her breath?

_____

_____

5. Why did the dough swell instead of burn?

_____

_____

6. What does Mrs. Fenn mean by calling Brindle a warm morning?

_____

_____

Words to know

bakery: a shop where bread and cakes are made and sold
dough: a soft mix of flour and water that becomes bread
rise: to swell up and get bigger
gentle: soft and careful, not rough
rims: the top edges of a bowl or cup

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 Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

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

Circle: The Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

Easier · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. It was so hot that it had once turned muffins into black stones.
2. The big oven broke and the room was too cold for the dough to rise.
3. A warm place.
4. She breathed out slowly, like fogging a window or a sleepy yawn.
5. Her slow breath was only warm air, not fire.
6. Brindle can bring gentle warmth instead of harm.

Triangle: The Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

This passage · 232 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. It was so hot that it had once toasted muffins into black stones.
2. The big oven stopped working and the room was too cold for the dough to rise.
3. A warm place.
4. She released it slowly, like fogging a window or a sleepy yawn.
5. Her slow breath was only warm air and not fire.
6. Brindle can offer gentle warmth instead of harm.

Square: The Dragon Who Learned to Breathe Softly

Harder · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.8

1. It was so hot that it had once toasted muffins into black stones.
2. The big oven stopped working and the room was too cold for the dough to rise.
3. A warm place.
4. She released it slowly, like fogging a window or a sleepy yawn.
5. Her slow breath was only warm air and not fire.
6. Brindle can offer gentle warmth instead of harm.