Name: _____ Date: _____

The Soup Thermos Trade

Circle group

Anselm opened his thermos at lunch. A rich, spicy steam rose up. His grandfather had made lentil soup the night before, with garlic and lemon. At home, it was his favorite meal. At school, it felt like a flag that said, "Look at me!"

In the next seat, Kiki watched him from behind her sandwich. "What is that?" she asked. She did not sound mean. She sounded curious.

Anselm shrugged and tried to cover the thermos with his arm. "Just soup. It's weird."

"It smells amazing," Kiki said. "Mine is peanut butter, again. My dad makes it the same way every day."

Anselm paused. Then he poured a little soup into the lid and slid it across the table. "Try it," he said. "Careful, it's hot."

Kiki sipped, and her eyes went wide. "Whoa. Can I have more?"

The next day, she brought a small box of her own. It held crispy rice crackers from her aunt. She split them with Anselm. Soon the whole table was trading bites. Someone brought dumplings. Someone else brought sweet bread.

At home, his grandfather asked how lunch went. "Perfect," said Anselm. "Next time, make extra."

Questions

1. What kind of soup did Anselm's grandfather make?

_____

_____

2. Why did the soup feel like a flag at school?

_____

_____

3. What was Kiki's lunch?

_____

_____

4. What did Kiki bring the next day?

_____

_____

5. Why did Anselm hide his thermos at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did Anselm ask his grandfather to make extra?

_____

_____

Words to know

lentil: a small, round bean that is cooked in soups
curious: wanting to know or learn about something
dumplings: small pockets of dough filled with 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: _____

The Soup Thermos Trade

Triangle group

Anselm unscrewed his thermos at lunch, and a rich, spicy steam rose up toward the cafeteria ceiling. His grandfather had made lentil soup the night before, with garlic and lemon. At home, it was his favorite meal in the world. At school, it felt like a flag that said, "Look at me!"

At the next seat, Kiki watched him from behind her sandwich. "What is that?" she asked. She did not sound unkind, because she sounded extremely curious.

Anselm shrugged and tried to cover the thermos with his arm. "Just soup. It's weird."

"It smells amazing," Kiki said. "Mine is peanut butter, again. My dad makes it the same way every single day."

Anselm hesitated. Then he poured a little soup into the thermos lid and slid it carefully across the table. "Try it," he said. "Careful, it's hot."

Kiki sipped, and her eyes went wide. "Whoa. Can I have more?"

The next day, she brought a small container of her own, which held crispy rice crackers that her aunt had sent from far away. She split them with Anselm, and soon the whole table was trading bites. Someone brought dumplings, and someone else brought sweet bread.

When Anselm went home, his grandfather asked how lunch had gone. "Perfect," said Anselm. "Next time, make extra."

Questions

1. What kind of soup did Anselm's grandfather make?

_____

_____

2. Why did the soup feel like a flag at school?

_____

_____

3. What was Kiki's lunch?

_____

_____

4. What did Kiki bring the next day?

_____

_____

5. Why did Anselm hide his thermos at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did Anselm ask his grandfather to make extra?

_____

_____

Words to know

lentil: a small, round bean that is cooked in soups
curious: wanting to know or learn about something
hesitated: paused because you were not sure
dumplings: small pockets of dough filled with 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: _____

The Soup Thermos Trade

Square group

Anselm unscrewed his thermos at lunchtime, and a rich, spicy steam drifted upward. His grandfather had prepared lentil soup the night before, flavored with garlic and lemon. At home, it was his favorite meal in the world. At school, however, it felt like a flag that announced, "Look at me!"

At the next seat, Kiki watched him from behind her sandwich. "What is that?" she asked. She did not sound unkind. She sounded genuinely curious.

Anselm shrugged and tried to hide the thermos behind his arm. "Just soup. It's weird."

"It smells amazing," Kiki said. "Mine is peanut butter, again. My dad makes it exactly the same way every single day."

Anselm hesitated for a moment. Then he poured a little soup into the thermos lid and slid it across the table. "Try it," he said. "Careful, it's hot."

Kiki took a sip, and her eyes widened. "Whoa. Can I have more?"

The following day, she brought a small container of her own, filled with crispy rice crackers that her aunt had sent. She split them with Anselm, and before long, the whole table was trading bites. Someone contributed dumplings, and someone else brought sweet bread.

When Anselm arrived home, his grandfather asked how lunch had gone. "Perfect," said Anselm. "Next time, please make extra."

Questions

1. What kind of soup did Anselm's grandfather prepare?

_____

_____

2. Why did the soup feel like a flag at school?

_____

_____

3. What was Kiki eating for lunch?

_____

_____

4. What did Kiki bring the following day?

_____

_____

5. Why did Anselm try to hide his thermos at first?

_____

_____

6. Why did Anselm ask his grandfather to make extra?

_____

_____

Words to know

lentil: a small, round bean that is cooked in soups
curious: wanting to know or learn about something
hesitated: paused because you were not sure
dumplings: small pockets of dough filled with 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: The Soup Thermos Trade

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

Circle: The Soup Thermos Trade

Easier · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. Lentil soup with garlic and lemon.
2. Its smell made Anselm feel that everyone would notice him.
3. A peanut butter sandwich.
4. Crispy rice crackers from her aunt.
5. He worried that his lunch was strange and people would laugh.
6. Sharing the soup was fun, and he wanted enough to share again.

Triangle: The Soup Thermos Trade

This passage · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. Lentil soup with garlic and lemon.
2. Its smell made Anselm feel that everyone would notice him.
3. A peanut butter sandwich.
4. Crispy rice crackers from her aunt.
5. He worried that his lunch was strange and that people would laugh.
6. He had learned that sharing his soup was fun and he wanted enough to share again.

Square: The Soup Thermos Trade

Harder · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. Lentil soup flavored with garlic and lemon.
2. Its smell made Anselm feel that everyone would notice him.
3. A peanut butter sandwich.
4. Crispy rice crackers that her aunt had sent.
5. He worried that his lunch was strange and that people would laugh.
6. He had learned that sharing the soup was fun, and he wanted enough to share again.