Name: _____ Date: _____

The Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

Circle group

In the apartment building on Alder Street, a glass dish with a blue lid was gone. Priya saw the empty spot in the cupboard on Monday. Her mother frowned. "I lent it to Mr. Ferris upstairs," she said. "That was three weeks ago."

Priya went to get it. She climbed to the third floor and knocked. Mr. Ferris looked shy. "I put cornbread in it for Mrs. Quan," he said. "Her knee was bad."

So Priya went to the second floor. Mrs. Quan smiled. "I filled it with noodles for the family in 4B. They just brought a new baby home."

At 4B a tired father held the dish. "We meant to return it," he said, "but the baby was crying. And now it is full of cookies for the neighbor downstairs. She watered our plants."

Priya counted on her fingers. The dish had been in five kitchens. Each time, a kind note had been taped under the lid. She felt a little dizzy.

At the ground floor, she did not take the dish home. She wrote, "Next, please," on a piece of paper. She tucked it under the lid. She filled the dish with warm rice from her kitchen and knocked on the nearest door.

Her mother laughed when Priya came back with empty hands. "Good," she said. "A dish like that should keep working."

Questions

1. What was missing from Priya's mother's cupboard?

_____

_____

2. Why did Mr. Ferris take cornbread to Mrs. Quan?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mrs. Quan fill the dish with noodles for 4B?

_____

_____

4. What was taped under the lid each time?

_____

_____

5. Why did Priya feel dizzy?

_____

_____

6. Why did Priya's mother say the dish should keep working?

_____

_____

Words to know

tucked: pushed something into a small space so it stays put

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 Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

Triangle group

In the apartment building on Alder Street, a glass casserole dish with a blue lid had mysteriously disappeared. Priya noticed the empty space in the cupboard on Monday, when her mother frowned and explained that she had lent it to Mr. Ferris upstairs three weeks earlier. Priya volunteered to retrieve it, so she climbed to the third floor and knocked on his door.

Mr. Ferris looked embarrassed. He admitted that he had filled the dish with cornbread and carried it down to Mrs. Quan, whose knee had been giving her trouble. Priya went down to the second floor, where Mrs. Quan smiled and said that she had passed the dish along with noodles for the family in 4B, who had just brought a new baby home.

At 4B a tired father held the dish and confessed that they had meant to return it, but the baby had been crying all evening. Besides, it was now full of cookies for the neighbor downstairs, who had watered their plants while they were away.

Priya counted on her fingers. The dish had visited five kitchens, and each time it had traveled with a kind note taped under the lid. She felt a little dizzy with surprise, and when she finally reached the ground floor, she did not take the dish home. Instead she wrote "Next, please" on a scrap of paper, tucked it under the lid, filled the dish with warm rice from her own kitchen, and knocked on the nearest door.

Her mother only laughed when Priya came back with empty hands. "Good," she said. "A dish like that should keep working."

Questions

1. What was missing from Priya's mother's cupboard?

_____

_____

2. Why did Mr. Ferris take cornbread to Mrs. Quan?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mrs. Quan fill the dish with noodles for the family in 4B?

_____

_____

4. What was taped under the lid each time the dish traveled?

_____

_____

5. Why did Priya feel dizzy with surprise?

_____

_____

6. Why did Priya's mother say the dish should keep working?

_____

_____

Words to know

casserole: a dish of food baked and served in the same pan
volunteered: offered to do something without being asked
embarrassed: feeling shy or uncomfortable about something
admitted: said that something was true, even if it was hard to say
tucked: pushed something into a small space so it stays put

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 Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

Square group

In the apartment building on Alder Street, a glass casserole dish with a blue lid had mysteriously disappeared. Priya noticed the empty space in the cupboard on Monday, when her mother frowned and explained that she had lent it to Mr. Ferris upstairs about three weeks earlier. Priya volunteered to retrieve it, so she climbed to the third floor and knocked on his door.

Mr. Ferris looked embarrassed. He admitted that he had filled the dish with cornbread and carried it down to Mrs. Quan, whose knee had been giving her considerable trouble. Priya descended to the second floor, where Mrs. Quan smiled warmly and said that she had passed the dish along, filled with noodles, to the family in 4B, who had just brought a new baby home.

At 4B a weary father held the dish and confessed that they had fully intended to return it, but the baby had been crying all evening. Besides, it was now packed with cookies for the neighbor downstairs, who had generously watered their plants while the family was away.

Priya counted on her fingers. The dish had visited five different kitchens, and each time it had traveled with a thoughtful note taped beneath the lid. She felt a little dizzy with astonishment, and when she finally reached the ground floor, she did not carry the dish home. Instead she wrote "Next, please" on a scrap of paper, tucked it under the lid, filled the dish with warm rice from her own kitchen, and knocked on the nearest door.

Her mother only laughed when Priya returned empty-handed. "Good," she said. "A dish like that ought to keep working."

Questions

1. What had vanished from Priya's mother's cupboard?

_____

_____

2. Why did Mr. Ferris carry cornbread down to Mrs. Quan?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mrs. Quan fill the dish with noodles for the family in 4B?

_____

_____

4. What was taped beneath the lid each time the dish traveled?

_____

_____

5. Why did Priya feel dizzy with astonishment?

_____

_____

6. Why did Priya's mother say the dish ought to keep working?

_____

_____

Words to know

casserole: a dish of food baked and served in the same pan
volunteered: offered to do something without being asked
embarrassed: feeling shy or uncomfortable about something
admitted: said that something was true, even if it was hard to say
tucked: pushed something into a small space so it stays put

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 Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

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

Circle: The Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

Easier · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. A glass dish with a blue lid.
2. Her knee was bad and she needed help.
3. They had just brought a new baby home.
4. A kind note.
5. One dish had gone to many kitchens and helped people in each one.
6. She liked that it kept helping neighbors, so she did not need it back.

Triangle: The Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

This passage · 270 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. A glass dish with a blue lid.
2. Her knee was bad and she needed some help.
3. They had just brought a new baby home and were busy.
4. A kind note.
5. She found that one dish had gone through many kitchens and done good in each one.
6. She liked that it kept helping neighbors, so she did not want it back yet.

Square: The Casserole Dish That Never Came Home

Harder · 276 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. A glass dish with a blue lid.
2. Her knee was giving her trouble and she needed help.
3. They had just brought a new baby home and were busy.
4. A kind note.
5. She learned that a single dish had passed through many kitchens and done good in each one.
6. She was pleased that it kept helping neighbors, so she did not want it back yet.