Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

Circle group

Every June the families on Elm Street have a block party. The tables are full of food. This year Dara Okafor carried two white dishes across the street. One had her mother's vanilla pudding. The other had Mr. Hale's mashed potatoes. Both were creamy and pale. Both had foil lids.

Dara put one dish on the dessert table. She put one beside the roast chicken. But she put them on the wrong tables.

Mr. Hale was first in line. He put pudding next to his chicken. He poured gravy on it and took a big bite. His eyebrows jumped. "Hmm," he said. "Sweeter than I remember."

A line formed at the dessert table. Mrs. Chen scooped potatoes into a bowl. She put cinnamon on top and tasted it. "Buttery," she said. "Daring. Very modern."

Soon the whole street was tasting and guessing. A toddler put gravy on his pudding. He said it was the best dinner ever. Two teenagers argued about more sugar for the potatoes.

At last Dara saw the labels were on the wrong lids. Her face turned pink. She told everyone. They laughed so hard the chicken nearly fell off the table. Mr. Hale had an idea. From now on every dish would get a label on the side. Every party would get one mystery dish.

## Questions

**1. What did Dara carry across the street?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Mr. Hale do with the pudding?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Mrs. Chen do to the mashed potatoes?**

_____

_____

**4. What mistake did Dara make with the dishes?**

_____

_____

**5. Why were the neighbors so polite about the strange tastes?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Dara's face turn pink?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

creamy: smooth and soft, like thick cream
daring: bold and willing to try something new

## 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 Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

Triangle group

Every June, the families on Elm Street hold a block party, and every June the tables groan with food. This year, Dara Okafor carried two identical white dishes across the street. One held her mother's vanilla pudding, and the other held Mr. Hale's mashed potatoes. Both were creamy and pale, and both had foil lids.

Dara set one dish on the dessert table and one beside the roast chicken. Unfortunately, she set them on the wrong tables.

Mr. Hale was first in line. He spooned a large helping of pudding next to his chicken, poured gravy over it, and took a big bite. His eyebrows jumped. "Hmm," he said politely. "Sweeter than I remember."

Meanwhile, a line formed at the dessert table. Mrs. Chen scooped potatoes into a bowl, sprinkled cinnamon on top, and tasted it. She chewed for a long moment. "Buttery," she announced. "Daring. Very modern."

Soon the whole street was tasting and guessing. A toddler put gravy on his pudding and declared it the best dinner of his life. Two teenagers argued over whether the potatoes needed more sugar.

At last Dara noticed the labels, which she had stuck to the wrong lids. Her face turned pink. But when she confessed, everybody laughed so hard that the chicken nearly fell off the table. Mr. Hale wiped his eyes and suggested a new rule: from now on, every dish gets a label on the side, and every party gets one mystery dish.

## Questions

**1. What did Dara carry across the street?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Mr. Hale do with the pudding?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Mrs. Chen do to the mashed potatoes?**

_____

_____

**4. What mistake did Dara make with the dishes?**

_____

_____

**5. Why were the neighbors so polite about the strange tastes?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Dara's face turn pink?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

identical: exactly alike in every way
creamy: smooth and soft, like thick cream
politely: in a kind and respectful way
daring: bold and willing to try something new
confessed: admitted that you did 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: _____

# The Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

Square group

Every June, the families on Elm Street hold an enormous block party, and every June the tables groan beneath the weight of the food. This year, Dara Okafor carried two identical white dishes across the street. One contained her mother's vanilla pudding, and the other contained Mr. Hale's mashed potatoes. Both were creamy and pale, and both were sealed beneath foil lids.

Dara placed one dish on the dessert table and the other beside the roast chicken. Unfortunately, she had set them down on the wrong tables entirely.

Mr. Hale was the first person in line. He spooned a generous helping of pudding next to his chicken, poured gravy over the top, and took an enthusiastic bite. His eyebrows jumped. "Hmm," he said politely. "Sweeter than I remember."

Meanwhile, a line had formed at the dessert table. Mrs. Chen scooped potatoes into a bowl, sprinkled cinnamon over them, and tasted a spoonful. She chewed for a long moment before announcing, "Buttery. Daring. Very modern."

Before long, the whole street was tasting and guessing. A toddler poured gravy on his pudding and declared it the finest dinner of his life, while two teenagers argued about whether the potatoes needed more sugar.

At last Dara noticed that she had stuck the labels onto the wrong lids, and her face turned pink. But when she confessed, everybody laughed so hard that the chicken nearly slid off the table. Mr. Hale wiped his eyes and proposed a new rule: from now on, every dish would carry a label on its side, and every party would feature exactly one mystery dish.

## Questions

**1. What did Dara carry across the street?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Mr. Hale do with the pudding?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Mrs. Chen do to the mashed potatoes?**

_____

**4. What mistake did Dara make with the dishes?**

**5. Why were the neighbors so polite about the strange tastes?**

**6. Why did Dara's face turn pink?**

## Words to know

identical: exactly alike in every way
creamy: smooth and soft, like thick cream
politely: in a kind and respectful way
daring: bold and willing to try something new
confessed: admitted that you did 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: The Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

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

### Circle: The Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

Easier · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. Two white dishes, one of pudding and one of mashed potatoes.
2. He put it by his chicken and poured gravy on it.
3. She put cinnamon on them and tasted them like dessert.
4. She put the dishes on the wrong tables, and the labels were on the wrong lids.
5. They did not want to hurt anyone's feelings, and they thought they were trying something new.
6. She felt embarrassed that her mistake caused the mix-up.

### Triangle: The Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

This passage · 244 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Two identical white dishes, one of pudding and one of mashed potatoes.
2. He put it next to his chicken and poured gravy on it.
3. She added cinnamon and tasted them as if they were dessert.
4. She put the lids and labels on the wrong dishes, so they went to the wrong tables.
5. They did not want to hurt anyone's feelings, and they guessed they were trying something new.
6. She felt embarrassed when she realized her mistake had caused the mix-up.

### Square: The Pudding Mix-Up on Elm Street

Harder · 266 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. Two identical white dishes, one of pudding and one of mashed potatoes.
2. He spooned it next to his chicken and poured gravy over it.
3. She sprinkled cinnamon over them and tasted them as though they were dessert.
4. She set the dishes on the wrong tables, and the labels were stuck to the wrong lids.
5. They did not want to hurt anyone's feelings, and they assumed they were sampling something new.
6. She felt embarrassed when she realized that her own mistake had caused the mix-up.