Name: _____ Date: _____

Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

Circle group

Amara's father baked bread. He worked while the rest of the town slept. He left for the bakery at ten each night. He came home at dawn, just as Amara ate breakfast. By then he was so tired that he mumbled and went to bed.

Amara missed him. At dinner there was an empty chair. At bedtime there was only a note on the fridge.

One night she woke up thirsty. Her phone was glowing on the counter. It had a voice memo. "Hello from the oven," said her father, quiet and warm. "I just took out forty loaves. The whole place smells like toast. Tell me one funny thing that happened at school."

Amara grinned in the dark kitchen. She held the phone close and whispered a story. A substitute teacher had called the class hamster Gerald. Its name was Gertrude.

After that, they sent memos every night. He told about the flour clouds and the sleepy delivery driver. She told about spelling tests and the kid who sneezed during the pledge. In the morning, each of them played the other's message at breakfast. The house felt a little less empty.

On Saturday, Amara found one last memo. "I'm off tonight," he said. "Come help me make a loaf, and we'll talk face to face."

Questions

1. What time did her father leave for the bakery?

_____

_____

2. Why did he mumble when he came home?

_____

_____

3. What was glowing on the counter?

_____

_____

4. What funny story did Amara tell?

_____

_____

5. Why did the house feel less empty after the memos?

_____

_____

6. Why did her father ask her to help make a loaf?

_____

_____

Words to know

mumbled: spoke in a low, unclear voice
dawn: the time in the morning when the sun first comes up
substitute: a person who takes the place of the usual one
pledge: a promise that people say together
memo: a short message sent for someone to read or hear later

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: _____

Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

Triangle group

Amara's father baked bread, and he did it while the rest of the town was asleep. He left for the bakery at ten o'clock every night and came home at dawn, just as Amara was eating her breakfast, and by then he was so exhausted that he mostly mumbled a greeting and went to bed. Amara missed him more than she wanted to admit, because at dinner there was an empty chair and at bedtime there was only a note stuck to the refrigerator.

One night she woke up thirsty and found her phone glowing on the kitchen counter. It held a voice memo, and when she pressed play, her father's voice said, quiet and warm, "Hello from the oven. I just pulled out forty loaves, and the whole bakery smells like toast. Tell me one funny thing that happened at school."

Amara grinned in the dark kitchen. She held the phone close and whispered a story about a substitute teacher who had called the class hamster Gerald, when its name was really Gertrude.

After that, they traded memos every night. He described the clouds of flour and the sleepy delivery driver, and she described spelling tests and the boy who sneezed in the middle of the pledge. In the morning, each of them played the other's message over breakfast, and the house felt a little less empty.

On Saturday, Amara found a final memo waiting. "I'm off tonight," her father said. "Come help me shape a loaf, and we'll talk face to face."

Questions

1. What time did Amara's father leave for the bakery?

_____

_____

2. Why was her father mostly mumbling when he came home?

_____

_____

3. What did Amara find glowing on the counter?

_____

_____

4. What was the funny story Amara told?

_____

_____

5. Why did the house feel less empty after the memos began?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think her father invited her to help make a loaf on his night off?

_____

_____

Words to know

mumbled: spoke in a low, unclear voice
dawn: the time in the morning when the sun first comes up
substitute: a person who takes the place of the usual one
pledge: a promise that people say together
memo: a short message sent for someone to read or hear later

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: _____

Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

Square group

Amara's father baked bread, and he did it while the rest of the town was fast asleep. He departed for the bakery at ten o'clock every night and returned home at dawn, just as Amara was finishing her breakfast, and by then he was so exhausted that he mostly mumbled a greeting and stumbled off to bed. Amara missed him more than she cared to admit, because at dinner there was an empty chair at the table and at bedtime there was only a note stuck to the refrigerator.

One night she woke up thirsty and discovered her phone glowing on the kitchen counter. It held a voice memo, and when she pressed play, her father's voice said, quiet and warm, "Hello from the oven. I just pulled out forty loaves, and the entire bakery smells like toast. Tell me one funny thing that happened at school today."

Amara grinned in the dark kitchen. She held the phone close and whispered a story about a substitute teacher who had accidentally called the class hamster Gerald, when its actual name was Gertrude.

After that, they traded memos every night. He described the enormous clouds of flour and the sleepy delivery driver, and she described spelling tests and the boy who sneezed in the middle of the pledge. In the morning, each of them played the other's message over breakfast, and the house felt a little less empty.

On Saturday, Amara discovered a final memo waiting. "I'm off tonight," her father said. "Come help me shape a loaf, and we'll finally talk face to face."

Questions

1. What time did Amara's father leave for the bakery each night?

_____

_____

2. Why did her father mostly mumble when he came home?

_____

_____

3. What did Amara find glowing on the kitchen counter?

_____

_____

4. What funny story did Amara whisper into the phone?

_____

_____

5. Why did the house feel less empty once the memos began?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think her father invited her to help with a loaf on his night off?

_____

_____

Words to know

mumbled: spoke in a low, unclear voice
dawn: the time in the morning when the sun first comes up
substitute: a person who takes the place of the usual one
pledge: a promise that people say together
memo: a short message sent for someone to read or hear later

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: Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

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

Circle: Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

Easier · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. Ten o'clock each night.
2. He was very tired after working all night.
3. Amara's phone with a voice memo.
4. A substitute called the class hamster Gerald, but its name was Gertrude.
5. She and her father were sharing their days even when apart.
6. He wanted to spend real time with her in person.

Triangle: Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

This passage · 254 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. Ten o'clock each night.
2. He was very tired after working all night.
3. Her phone with a voice memo from her father.
4. A substitute teacher called the class hamster Gerald when its name was Gertrude.
5. She and her father were sharing their days even though they were apart.
6. He wanted to spend real time with her in person.

Square: Voice Memos From the Bakery Shift

Harder · 263 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. Ten o'clock.
2. He was exhausted after working all night.
3. Her phone with a voice memo from her father.
4. A substitute teacher called the class hamster Gerald when its name was Gertrude.
5. She and her father were sharing their days even though they were apart.
6. He wanted to spend real time with her in person.