Name: _____ Date: _____

The Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

Circle group

On Saturdays, Nate helped at his uncle's bakery. He bagged rolls and counted change. By the third week of March, he saw something odd. Every Saturday, a gray-haired woman named Mrs. Varga bought one loaf of rye bread. Each time, she circled one letter in the shop's name on her receipt with a pencil.

Nate kept the crumpled slips she left on the counter. The first week she circled a T. The second week it was a W. The third week it was an E. "That could be a pattern," he muttered. "Or it could be an accident."

He wrote the letters in his notebook as the weeks went by. After a month he had T, W, E, N, T, Y. A few Saturdays later, it spelled TWENTY YEARS. He dropped his pencil.

He ran to the back of the shop. "Uncle Gus, I think someone is planning something for your anniversary," he said. "You opened twenty years ago, didn't you?"

His uncle blinked. Then he smiled. The next Saturday, Mrs. Varga came in with a dozen neighbors. They had a huge banner that they made by hand. "Thank you for twenty years of rye bread," it said.

She winked at Nate. "I wondered who would notice," she said. "Most people never read the receipt."

Questions

1. What did Mrs. Varga buy every Saturday?

_____

_____

2. What did she do to each receipt?

_____

_____

3. What did the circled letters spell?

_____

_____

4. What did Mrs. Varga bring to the bakery at the end?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nate keep the crumpled receipts?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mrs. Varga hide the message in the receipts?

_____

_____

Words to know

receipt: a slip of paper that shows what a customer paid
pattern: an order or design that repeats or follows a rule
crumpled: squeezed or wrinkled into a ball
anniversary: a yearly celebration of an important date

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 Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

Triangle group

On Saturdays, Nate helped at his uncle's bakery by bagging rolls and counting out change, and by the third week of March he had noticed something peculiar. Every Saturday a gray-haired customer named Mrs. Varga bought a single loaf of rye bread, and every time she took her receipt, she circled one letter in the shop's name with a pencil.

Nate began keeping the crumpled slips that she left behind on the counter. During the first week she had circled a T, during the second week a W, and during the third week an E. "That could be a pattern," he muttered. "Or it could simply be an accident."

He wrote the letters in order in his notebook as the weeks went by. After a month he had T, W, E, N, T, Y, and after several more Saturdays the pattern had grown into TWENTY YEARS, at which point he dropped his pencil in astonishment.

He sprinted to the back of the shop. "Uncle Gus, I think someone is planning something for your anniversary," he said breathlessly. "It has been twenty years since you opened, hasn't it?"

His uncle blinked, and then a broad smile spread across his face. The next Saturday, Mrs. Varga strolled in with a dozen neighbors who were carrying an enormous hand-lettered banner. "Thank you for twenty years of rye bread," it read.

She winked at Nate. "I wondered who would notice," she said. "Most people never bother to read the receipt."

Questions

1. What did Mrs. Varga buy every Saturday?

_____

_____

2. What did she do to each receipt?

_____

_____

3. What message did the circled letters spell?

_____

_____

4. What did Mrs. Varga bring to the bakery in the end?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nate keep the crumpled receipts?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mrs. Varga hide the message in the receipts?

_____

_____

Words to know

receipt: a slip of paper that shows what a customer paid
pattern: an order or design that repeats or follows a rule
crumpled: squeezed or wrinkled into a ball
anniversary: a yearly celebration of an important date
hand-lettered: written by hand rather than printed

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 Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

Square group

On Saturdays, Nate assisted at his uncle's bakery by bagging rolls and counting out change, and by the third week of March he had noticed something genuinely peculiar. Every Saturday, a gray-haired customer named Mrs. Varga purchased a single loaf of rye bread, and every time she accepted her receipt, she carefully circled one letter in the shop's name with a pencil.

Nate began collecting the crumpled slips that she abandoned on the counter. During the first week she had circled a T, during the second week a W, and during the third week an E. "That could be a pattern," he muttered to himself. "Or it could simply be an accident."

He recorded the letters in order in his notebook as the weeks passed. After a month he had T, W, E, N, T, Y, and after several more Saturdays the pattern had grown into TWENTY YEARS, at which point he dropped his pencil in complete astonishment.

He sprinted to the back of the shop. "Uncle Gus, I think someone is planning something extraordinary for your anniversary," he said breathlessly. "It has been twenty years since you opened the bakery, hasn't it?"

His uncle blinked, and then a broad, delighted smile spread across his face. The following Saturday, Mrs. Varga strolled in with a dozen neighbors who were proudly carrying an enormous hand-lettered banner. "Thank you for twenty years of rye bread," it read.

She winked at Nate. "I wondered who would eventually notice," she remarked. "Most people never bother to read the receipt."

Questions

1. What did Mrs. Varga purchase every Saturday?

_____

_____

2. What did she do to each receipt?

_____

_____

3. What message did the circled letters eventually spell?

_____

_____

4. What did Mrs. Varga bring to the bakery in the end?

_____

_____

5. Why did Nate begin to keep the crumpled receipts?

_____

_____

6. Why did Mrs. Varga conceal the message in the receipts?

_____

_____

Words to know

receipt: a slip of paper that shows what a customer paid
pattern: an order or design that repeats or follows a rule
crumpled: squeezed or wrinkled into a ball
anniversary: a yearly celebration of an important date
hand-lettered: written by hand rather than printed

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 Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

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

Circle: The Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

Easier · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. One loaf of rye bread.
2. She circled one letter in the shop's name with a pencil.
3. TWENTY YEARS.
4. A big banner and a dozen neighbors to thank Uncle Gus.
5. He thought the circled letters made a pattern and wanted to track them.
6. She wanted to plan a surprise for the anniversary without saying so outright.

Triangle: The Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

This passage · 248 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. One loaf of rye bread.
2. She circled one letter in the shop's name with a pencil.
3. TWENTY YEARS.
4. A big banner and a dozen neighbors to thank Uncle Gus.
5. He suspected the circled letters formed a pattern and wanted to track them.
6. She wanted to plan a surprise for the anniversary without telling anyone outright.

Square: The Bakery Receipts With Circled Letters

Harder · 257 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. A single loaf of rye bread.
2. She circled one letter in the shop's name with a pencil.
3. TWENTY YEARS.
4. An enormous banner and a dozen neighbors to thank Uncle Gus.
5. He suspected the circled letters formed a pattern and wanted to keep track of them.
6. She wanted to prepare a surprise for the anniversary without revealing it outright.