Name: _____ Date: _____

The Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

Circle group

Pearl Okafor ran a sandwich shop called The Daily Loaf. She had one rule. It was painted in cheerful yellow letters above the register: NO PUN, NO SANDWICH.

Her regular customers loved it. A man in a raincoat said, "I would like a turkey on rye, and I relish the thought." A woman asked for extra pickles because she was in a "dill emma." The mailman was proud of his best line. He ordered a hot sandwich and said, "I have a lot of bread-iculous ideas." Pearl rang them up and handed over each sandwich with a happy nod.

Then a new boy named Teodor started working the lunch rush. He was fourteen and serious, and he was hopeless at puns. The first time a customer teased him, he forgot the rule and asked, "What would you like?" The customer gasped. "That is not even a joke!"

For three days Teodor read pun books at night. He learned "lettuce begin" and "I am feeling a little crumby." But on Friday, the line stretched out the door. The slicing machine jammed in the middle of the rush. Teodor leaned over it and muttered, "Well, this is a pickle."

The room went silent. Then Pearl began to clap. "That," she said, "was a perfect pun. The best ones slip out when you are not trying." The customers cheered. Teodor turned as red as a tomato, which a man by the window said was a good description.

Questions

1. What was the rule at The Daily Loaf?

_____

_____

2. What pun did the woman use for extra pickles?

_____

_____

3. Why did Teodor have trouble at the deli?

_____

_____

4. What did Teodor do to get ready?

_____

_____

5. Why did Pearl clap on Friday?

_____

_____

6. What does Pearl mean that the best puns slip out when you are not trying?

_____

_____

Words to know

pun: a joke that plays with words that sound alike or have two meanings
cheerful: bright and happy
register: a machine at a shop where people pay
jammed: got stuck and could not move

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 Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

Triangle group

Pearl Okafor ran a sandwich shop called The Daily Loaf, and she had one rule, which was painted in cheerful yellow letters above the register: NO PUN, NO SANDWICH.

Her regular customers loved it. A man in a raincoat stepped up and said, "I would like a turkey on rye, and I relish the thought." A woman asked for extra pickles because she was in a "dill emma." The mailman, who was very proud of his best line, ordered a hot sandwich and added, "I have a lot of bread-iculous ideas." Pearl rang them up and handed each sandwich across the counter with a satisfied nod.

Then a new boy named Teodor started working the lunch rush. He was fourteen, serious, and absolutely hopeless at puns. The first time a customer teased him, he panicked, forgot the rule, and asked, "What would you like?" The customer gasped. "That is not even a joke!"

For three days Teodor studied pun books at night. He memorized "lettuce begin" and "I am feeling a little crumby." But on Friday, the line stretched out the door and the slicing machine jammed in the middle of a rush. Teodor leaned over the machine and muttered, "Well, this is a pickle."

The whole room fell silent. Then Pearl began to clap. "That," she said, "was a perfectly natural pun. The best ones always slip out when you are not trying." The customers cheered, and Teodor turned as red as a tomato, which a man by the window said was an accurate description.

Questions

1. What was the rule at The Daily Loaf?

_____

_____

2. What pun did the woman use when asking for extra pickles?

_____

_____

3. Why did Teodor have trouble at the deli?

_____

_____

4. What did Teodor do to prepare for the rush?

_____

_____

5. Why did Pearl begin to clap on Friday?

_____

_____

6. What does Pearl mean when she says the best puns slip out when you are not trying?

_____

_____

Words to know

pun: a joke that plays with words that sound alike or have two meanings
cheerful: bright and happy
register: a machine at a shop where people pay
memorized: learned so well that you can say it without looking
jammed: got stuck and could not move

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 Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

Square group

Pearl Okafor ran a sandwich shop called The Daily Loaf, and she enforced exactly one rule, which was painted in cheerful yellow letters above the register: NO PUN, NO SANDWICH.

Her regular customers adored the policy. A man in a raincoat stepped up and announced, "I would like a turkey on rye, and I relish the thought." A woman requested extra pickles because she was in a "dill emma." The mailman, who was enormously proud of his best line, ordered a hot sandwich and added, "I have a lot of bread-iculous ideas." Pearl rang up each order and passed every sandwich across the counter with a satisfied nod.

Then a new employee named Teodor started working the lunch rush. He was fourteen, deeply serious, and absolutely hopeless at puns. The first time a customer teased him, he panicked, forgot the rule entirely, and asked, "What would you like?" The customer gasped. "That is not even a joke!"

For three evenings Teodor studied books of puns. He memorized "lettuce begin" and "I am feeling a little crumby." But on Friday, the line stretched out the door, and in the middle of the rush the slicing machine jammed. Teodor leaned over it and muttered, "Well, this is a pickle."

The entire room fell silent. Then Pearl began to applaud. "That," she declared, "was a perfectly natural pun. The finest ones always slip out when you are not trying." The customers cheered, and Teodor turned as red as a tomato, which a man by the window pronounced an accurate description.

Questions

1. What was the one rule at The Daily Loaf?

_____

_____

2. What pun did the woman use when requesting extra pickles?

_____

_____

3. Why did Teodor struggle at the deli?

_____

_____

4. How did Teodor prepare for the lunch rush?

_____

_____

5. Why did Pearl begin to applaud on Friday?

_____

_____

6. What does Pearl mean when she says the finest puns slip out when you are not trying?

_____

_____

Words to know

pun: a joke that plays with words that sound alike or have two meanings
cheerful: bright and happy
register: a machine at a shop where people pay
memorized: learned so well that you can say it without looking
jammed: got stuck and could not move

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 Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

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

Circle: The Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

Easier · 245 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. No pun, no sandwich.
2. She said she was in a dill emma.
3. He was serious and hopeless at making puns.
4. He read pun books at night and learned some.
5. Teodor made a natural pun by accident when he said this is a pickle.
6. Wordplay often works best when it comes naturally.

Triangle: The Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

This passage · 257 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. No pun, no sandwich.
2. She said she was in a dill emma.
3. He was serious and hopeless at making puns.
4. He studied pun books at night and memorized some.
5. Teodor made a natural pun by accident when he said this is a pickle.
6. Funny wordplay often works best when it happens naturally.

Square: The Deli Where Every Order Had to Be a Pun

Harder · 258 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. No pun, no sandwich.
2. She said she was in a dill emma.
3. He was deeply serious and hopeless at making puns.
4. He studied books of puns for three evenings and memorized some.
5. Teodor made a natural pun by accident when he said this is a pickle.
6. Clever wordplay often works best when it happens naturally.