Name: _____ Date: _____

Grandma's Smudged Card

Circle group

Kofi had promised to bake his grandmother's famous oatmeal cookies for the neighborhood picnic. He felt sure he could do it. Then he took the old recipe card out of its tin. A large brown stain, maybe from spilled vanilla, had blurred half the ingredients. He could still read the flour and the oats. But the amounts of sugar, butter, and cinnamon were lost in a smudge.

Grandma was visiting her sister. She could not be reached until evening. The picnic began at noon. Kofi paced around the kitchen. He could buy cookies at the store. But that would not feel like keeping his promise.

Then he had an idea. He knocked on the door of Mrs. Reyes next door. She had eaten Grandma's cookies for twenty years. "They are chewy, with just a little cinnamon," she said, tapping her chin. "And I remember Grandma saying the butter is a full stick. Her mother always used a whole stick."

With that clue, Kofi measured with care. He wrote down each amount as he worked, so he would not lose his progress again. He baked a test batch of six cookies and tasted one. It was far too sweet. He used a little less sugar and baked a second batch. It smelled just like his grandmother's kitchen.

At the picnic, the cookies were gone in minutes. That night, Kofi called his grandmother and told her what he had done. She laughed and asked him to read the new amounts. "You got it nearly right," she said. "Now the recipe is safe in two places." Kofi copied it onto a new card. In the corner he wrote, "Fixed by Kofi."

Questions

1. What happened to the recipe card?

_____

_____

2. Who helped Kofi remember how much butter to use?

_____

_____

3. What was wrong with the first test batch?

_____

_____

4. Why did Kofi write down each amount as he worked?

_____

_____

5. Why did Kofi not just buy cookies at the store?

_____

_____

Words to know

recipe: a set of directions for making food
ingredients: the foods that are mixed together in a recipe
smudge: a dirty or blurred mark
neighborhood: the area and people living close to your home

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: _____

Grandma's Smudged Card

Triangle group

Kofi had promised to bake his grandmother's famous oatmeal cookies for the neighborhood picnic, and he felt confident until he pulled the old recipe card out of its tin. A large brown stain, probably from spilled vanilla, had blurred half the ingredients. He could still read the flour and the oats, but the amounts of sugar, butter, and cinnamon had dissolved into an unreadable smudge.

Grandma was visiting her sister and could not be reached until evening, yet the picnic began at noon. Kofi paced around the kitchen in frustration. He could easily buy cookies at the grocery store, but that would not feel like keeping his promise.

Then an idea occurred to him. He knocked on the door of Mrs. Reyes next door, who had been eating Grandma's cookies for twenty years. "They are chewy, with just a hint of cinnamon," she said thoughtfully, tapping her chin. "And I remember Grandma saying the butter is a full stick, because her mother always used a whole stick."

With that clue, Kofi measured everything carefully and wrote down each amount as he worked, so that he would never lose his progress again. He baked a test batch of six cookies and tasted one, which was far too sweet, so he reduced the sugar slightly and tried a second batch, which smelled exactly like his grandmother's kitchen.

At the picnic, the cookies disappeared within minutes. That night, Kofi called his grandmother to tell her what he had done. She laughed warmly and asked him to read the new amounts aloud. "You got it nearly right," she said. "And now the recipe is safe in two places." Kofi copied it onto a fresh card and added a note in the corner: "Fixed by Kofi."

Questions

1. What happened to the recipe card?

_____

_____

2. Who helped Kofi remember how much butter to use?

_____

_____

3. What was wrong with the first test batch?

_____

_____

4. Why did Kofi write down each amount as he went?

_____

_____

5. Why did Kofi not simply buy cookies at the store?

_____

_____

Words to know

recipe: a set of directions for making food
ingredients: the foods that are mixed together in a recipe
smudge: a dirty or blurred mark
neighborhood: the area and people living close to your home
reduced: made smaller in amount

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: _____

Grandma's Smudged Card

Square group

Kofi had promised to bake his grandmother's celebrated oatmeal cookies for the neighborhood picnic, and he felt entirely confident until he pulled the old recipe card out of its tin. A large brown stain, probably from spilled vanilla, had blurred half of the ingredients. He could still read the flour and the oats, but the amounts of sugar, butter, and cinnamon had dissolved into an unreadable smudge.

Grandma was visiting her sister and could not be reached until evening, yet the picnic would begin at noon. Kofi paced around the kitchen in frustration. He could easily purchase cookies at the grocery store, but that would not feel like keeping his promise to her.

Then an idea occurred to him. He knocked on the door of Mrs. Reyes next door, who had been eating Grandma's cookies for twenty years. "They are chewy, with just a hint of cinnamon," she said thoughtfully, tapping her chin. "And I remember Grandma mentioning that the butter is a full stick, because her mother always used a whole stick."

With that valuable clue, Kofi measured everything meticulously and wrote down each amount as he worked, so that he would never lose his progress again. He baked a test batch of six cookies and tasted one, which was far too sweet, so he reduced the sugar slightly and tried a second batch, which smelled exactly like his grandmother's kitchen.

At the picnic, the cookies vanished within minutes. That night, Kofi called his grandmother to tell her what he had accomplished. She laughed warmly and asked him to read the new amounts aloud. "You got it nearly right," she said. "And now the recipe is safe in two places." Kofi copied it onto a fresh card and added a note in the corner: "Fixed by Kofi."

Questions

1. What damaged the recipe card, and what could no longer be read?

_____

_____

2. Which neighbor helped Kofi remember how much butter to use?

_____

_____

3. What was the problem with the first test batch?

_____

_____

4. Why did Kofi write down each amount while he worked?

_____

_____

5. Why did Kofi decide against purchasing cookies at the grocery store?

_____

_____

Words to know

recipe: a set of directions for making food
ingredients: the foods that are mixed together in a recipe
smudge: a dirty or blurred mark
neighborhood: the area and people living close to your home
reduced: made smaller in amount

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: Grandma's Smudged Card

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

Circle: Grandma's Smudged Card

Easier · 278 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A stain blurred the amounts of sugar, butter, and cinnamon.
2. Mrs. Reyes, the neighbor.
3. It was too sweet.
4. So he would not lose his progress and could save the recipe.
5. That would not feel like keeping his promise to bake Grandma's cookies.

Triangle: Grandma's Smudged Card

This passage · 291 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. A stain blurred the amounts of sugar, butter, and cinnamon.
2. Mrs. Reyes, the neighbor.
3. It was too sweet.
4. So he would not lose his work and could save the recipe.
5. It would not feel like keeping his promise to bake Grandma's cookies.

Square: Grandma's Smudged Card

Harder · 298 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. A stain blurred the amounts of sugar, butter, and cinnamon.
2. Mrs. Reyes.
3. It was far too sweet.
4. So that he would not lose his progress and could save the recipe.
5. It would not feel like keeping his promise to bake his grandmother's cookies.