DoodleBeez Worksheets

Grade 5 | Reading

Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Last Day of the Bakery: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 255 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Last Day of the Bakery

For forty-two years, the smell of fresh bread had drifted from Kowalski's Bakery onto Maple Street every morning. Now a sign hung in the window: "Closing Saturday. Thank you for the memories."

Eleven-year-old Nadia had stopped at Kowalski's every day on her way to school since kindergarten. Mr. Kowalski always slipped her a warm poppy-seed roll and asked about her spelling tests. When she learned the bakery was closing because Mr. Kowalski was retiring, she felt as if something solid had been pulled out from under her.

"Who will make the rolls now?" she asked him on Wednesday.

Mr. Kowalski wiped flour from his hands. "Recipes don't belong in a shop," he said. "They belong to whoever is willing to learn them."

On Thursday and Friday, Nadia arrived at the bakery at five in the morning, her mother's permission note in hand. Mr. Kowalski showed her how to proof the yeast, how to knead the dough until it felt "like a baby's cheek," and how to brush the tops with egg before sprinkling the poppy seeds. Her first batch came out flat and pale. Her second was lopsided. By Friday afternoon, her rolls were golden and puffy.

On Saturday, the line stretched around the block. Nadia stood behind the counter in an apron that reached her ankles, handing out rolls she had made herself. When the last customer left, Mr. Kowalski gave her a worn notebook full of recipes written in his careful handwriting.

"Now," he said, "the bakery isn't closing. It's just moving."

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a town holds a baking contest B. a girl gets a job at a restaurant

   C. a bakery owner opens a second shop D. a girl learns her neighbor's recipes before his bakery closes

2. **Detail:** Why was the bakery closing?

   A. No one bought bread anymore. B. The building was sold. C. Mr. Kowalski was retiring.

   D. There was a fire.

3. **Vocabulary:** The bread dough should feel "like a baby's cheek." This comparison means it should be...

   A. wet and sticky B. hard and dry C. soft and smooth D. cold and lumpy

4. **Sequence:** What happened to Nadia's first batch of rolls?

   A. They came out flat and pale. B. They were lopsided. C. They burned. D. They were golden and puffy.

5. **Character:** Which word best describes Mr. Kowalski?

   A. generous B. greedy C. impatient D. careless

6. **Inference:** What did Mr. Kowalski mean when he said, "the bakery isn't closing. It's just moving"?

ANSWER KEY

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   His recipes and baking would continue through Nadia.