The Secret Recipe

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Leveled reading: this passage is written at guided reading level O, a typical level for Grade 3. Read it aloud once, then read it again silently.

The Secret Recipe



Every Sunday, the smell of Grandma Rosa's bread filled the whole apartment building. Neighbours would knock on the door just to ask what she was baking.

When Grandma went to visit her sister for a month, Lina decided to surprise her. She would bake the famous bread by herself. She found Grandma's recipe card in a tin box. It listed flour, water, yeast, salt and honey. At the bottom, in Grandma's curly handwriting, it said: "And don't forget the secret ingredient."

Lina searched the whole kitchen. She checked every spice jar and every cupboard. There was nothing labelled SECRET.

She baked the bread anyway. It rose, and it smelled good, but it wasn't the same. It was missing something.

When Grandma came home, Lina showed her the card. "What's the secret ingredient?" she asked. Grandma's eyes twinkled. "Come, I'll show you."

They baked together. Grandma hummed old songs while they kneaded the dough. She told Lina stories about baking with her own mother in a tiny village far away. They laughed when Lina got flour on her nose.

When the bread came out of the oven, Lina took a bite. It tasted exactly right. "But we used the same ingredients," she said, confused. Grandma hugged her. "The secret ingredient," she said, "is baking with someone you love."

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did neighbours knock on Grandma's door?

(a) To ask what she was baking
(b) To complain about noise
(c) To borrow sugar

2. What did the recipe card say at the bottom?

(a) Bake for one hour
(b) Don't forget the secret ingredient
(c) Add chocolate

3. How was Lina's first bread?

(a) Perfect
(b) Good, but not the same
(c) Burnt

4. What was the secret ingredient?

(a) Honey
(b) Baking with someone you love
(c) A special spice

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Why did Lina want to bake the bread by herself?**

2. **Why do you think the bread tasted right the second time?**

3. **What is the theme, or big message, of this story?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. Why did neighbours knock on Grandma's door?

- **a** **To ask what she was baking**
- **b** To complain about noise
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2. What did the recipe card say at the bottom?

- **a** Bake for one hour
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3. How was Lina's first bread?

- **a** Perfect
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4. What was the secret ingredient?

- **a** Honey
- **b** **Baking with someone you love**
- **c** A special spice

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Why did Lina want to bake the bread by herself?**
   She wanted to surprise Grandma while she was away.
2. **Why do you think the bread tasted right the second time?**
   Because Lina baked it with Grandma, sharing songs, stories and laughs, which made it special.
3. **What is the theme, or big message, of this story?**
   Things we make with people we love mean more than anything we make alone.