

Reading Comprehension: Sugar and Spice

Directions: Read the story below. Then answer the questions.

Sugar and Spice

It was Saturday, and Mindy was getting ready for her birthday party. In just three hours, all of her friends would arrive with presents and excitement. Every year, Mindy and her mom made a cinnamon cake fresh on the day of her birthday party, and Mindy thought this year would be no different. Excited, she waited for her mom in the kitchen.

Mindy's mother came into the kitchen and took her apron from a hook on the wall. Instead of putting it on, she lifted it over Mindy's head. Surprised, Mindy stood as her mom tied the strings of the apron behind her.

"Mindy, I think you're old enough to mix the batter yourself this year. I'm sure you can do it. Remember what we say?"

"Yes... Baking is just a little sugar and a little spice."

"That's right," said Mindy's mom. "Now, go ahead and start. I'm going to go blow up the balloons." With that, she left Mindy alone in the kitchen.

Maybe her mom was right. Maybe there wasn't much to it. Carefully, Mindy measured out the ingredients and poured them into a big bowl. Then, she cautiously mixed the batter until it was perfectly smooth. Carefully, she poured the batter into the cake pan. Then she called to her mom.

"It's ready to go into the oven," Mindy said. Her mom turned on the oven, set the temperature, and popped the pan into the oven. Mindy had actually done it!

When the cake came out, something seemed wrong. Mindy tried to poke it with a toothpick, just as her mother always did. The toothpick wouldn't go through. The cake was almost as hard as a rock!

"I did exactly what I was supposed to," Mindy moaned. "I was so careful! I didn't put the eggs in until last, and I measured the baking soda exactly."

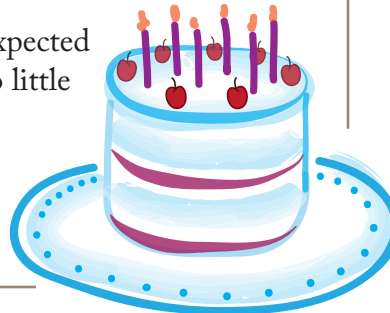
"Baking *soda*? Oh, dear. That's the problem. You were supposed to use baking *powder*."

Mindy began to cry. "I'm sorry, mom. I tried so hard."

Mindy's mom gave her a big hug. "I'm the one who's sorry. I expected too much and I was hard on you. I guess you could say I used too little sugar and too much spice!"

Mindy laughed, and her mom laughed, too.

"Now, let's try again," said Mindy's mom. "This time, we'll do it together."



1. Who blew up the balloons for the birthday party?

2. What mistake did Mindy make while baking the cinnamon cake on her own?

3. When did Mindy and her mom make a cinnamon cake each year?

4. Where did Mindy wait for her mom?

5. Why was the cake almost as hard as a rock?

6. How did Mindy and her mom prepare for the birthday party?