

Kim's Cake Mistake



Kim wanted to bake a special cake for her mother. She knew she had to preplan every step to get it right. She sat at the kitchen table with a pen, making a note in the book of what she needed.



She did not want to make one mistake. She woke up at predawn, while the house was still dark and quiet. She crept down to the kitchen. Her first step was to preheat the big black oven. She had to preset the heat.



She remembered her mother's rules and knew she must never disobey them. Kim began to mix the butter and cream. She looked at the old book. But she began to distrust the faded words. The page had a dark spot that looked like a misprint.



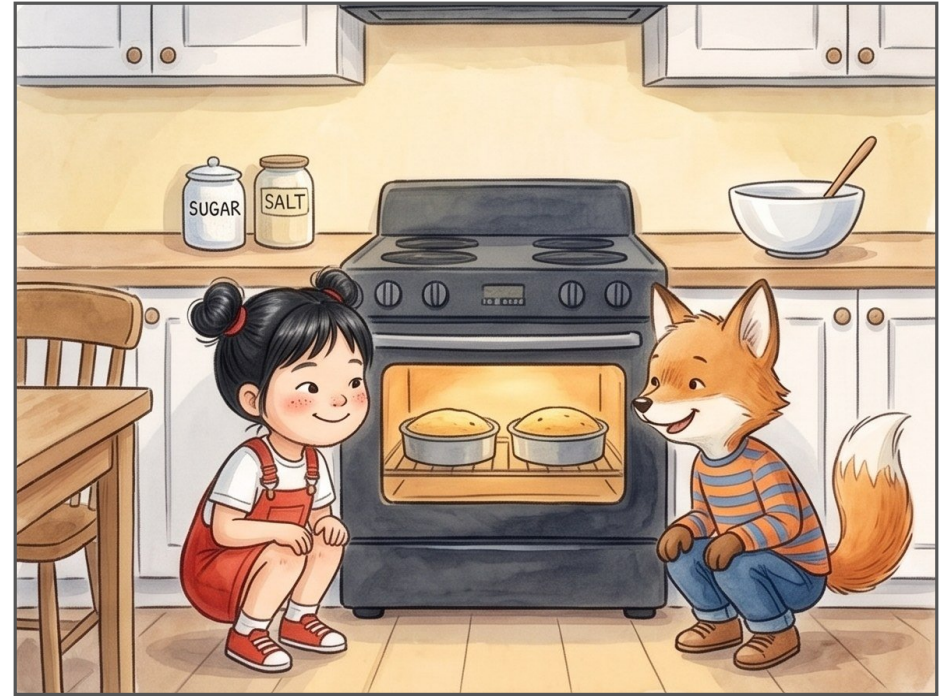
Did it say one cup of salt or one pinch? She did not want a mismatch of salty and sweet. "I hope I did not misplace the sugar," she whispered as she searched the shelf. Suddenly, Kim noticed she had made a bad misread of the steps.



She had mixed the milk in too early, and the mix was a big mess. The pretty picture in the book did mislead her, making it look quite simple. She could not dismiss the wet mess in the bowl. She knew her mother would dislike a bad cake.



Her brother Ted walked into the kitchen, rubbing his eyes. "What is that smell?" he asked. Kim sighed. "I made a huge mistake," she said. "I think I broke the treat." Ted looked at the wet bowl. "Do not fret," he said. "We can fix this together."



Ted helped her whip the mix until it was smooth. They poured a drop of fresh milk and beat the lumps away. Kim preset the oven timer once more and slid the pans inside. She watched the cake rise through the glass, feeling proud.



When their mother came downstairs, the kitchen smelled amazing. The cake was yellow and beautiful. Kim was glad she did not let her early mistake stop her. Her mother smiled and took a big bite. "This is the best cake ever," she said.

Words in This Book

Focus skill

Prefixes pre- (before), dis- (not), mis- (wrongly)

Prefixes pre-, dis-, mis- words

preplan, mistake, predawn, preheat, preset, disobey, distrust, misprint, mismatch, misplace, misread, mislead, dismiss, dislike

Talk About It

1. What did Kim write her note in?
2. What early step did Kim misread?
3. How did Kim's mother feel about the cake?

Read It Again

Read the book again. Point to every word from the Prefixes pre-, dis-, mis- list. How many can you find?