

Grandma's Kitchen

Read the story. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 Every Sunday, Leo walked two blocks to his grandmother's apartment. He could smell her cooking from the bottom of the stairs. Today the smell was onions, garlic and ginger, which meant that she was making dumplings. **The kitchen was a treasure chest.** Jars of spices, bowls of chopped vegetables and bags of flour covered every shelf.
- 2 "You are just in time," Grandma said. She tied an apron around his waist. "Today you will fold the dumplings." Leo frowned. "I have never done that before." Grandma patted his cheek. "It is **a piece of cake**," she said. "Just watch my hands."
- 3 **Sizzle!** The onions landed in the hot pan. **The kettle sang on the stove**, and steam fogged up the window. Grandma put a spoonful of filling on a circle of dough. She folded it in half and pinched the edge into tiny pleats.
- 4 Leo tried, but his first dumpling fell apart in his fingers. His second one was fat and lumpy, and filling leaked out of the side. "Mine are terrible," he said, and Grandma laughed. "I have folded **a million dumplings** in my life," she told him. "My first ones were worse than yours. Keep going."
- 5 By the tenth dumpling, Leo's pleats were neat. Grandma dropped them all into the pot. When they came out, they were **as soft as pillows**. Leo ate six of them, but he saved the fat, lumpy one for last, and he thought it tasted the best of all.



Grandma's Kitchen: Questions

Go back to the bold words in the text. Think about what the author really means.

1. What does Grandma mean by “a piece of cake”?

- ☐ They will bake a cake next.
- ☐ Folding dumplings is easy.
- ☐ Leo may have a snack first.

2. Which word is an example of onomatopoeia?

- ☐ apron
- ☐ lumpy
- ☐ Sizzle!

3. What does Grandma mean by “a million dumplings”?

- ☐ She has made a great many dumplings.
- ☐ She counts every dumpling she makes.
- ☐ She wants Leo to make a million.

4. Which phrase from the passage is a metaphor?

- ☐ as soft as pillows
- ☐ The kitchen was a treasure chest
- ☐ The kettle sang on the stove

5. What does the author mean by “The kettle sang on the stove”?

- ☐ Grandma sang while she cooked.
- ☐ The radio was playing music.
- ☐ The kettle whistled as the water boiled.

6. The author says the dumplings were “as soft as pillows”. Write your own simile to describe a food you enjoy.

Grandma's Kitchen: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. What does Grandma mean by “a piece of cake”?

- ☐ They will bake a cake next.
- ☒ **Folding dumplings is easy.**
- ☐ Leo may have a snack first.

Proof This is an idiom, a common saying that means something is very easy to do.

2. Which word is an example of onomatopoeia?

- ☐ apron
- ☐ lumpy
- ☒ **Sizzle!**

Proof “Sizzle!” sounds like the noise food makes in a hot pan.

3. What does Grandma mean by “a million dumplings”?

- ☒ **She has made a great many dumplings.**
- ☐ She counts every dumpling she makes.
- ☐ She wants Leo to make a million.

Proof She has not really made a million, so she is exaggerating to show she has had lots of practice.

4. Which phrase from the passage is a metaphor?

- ☐ as soft as pillows
- ☒ **The kitchen was a treasure chest**
- ☐ The kettle sang on the stove

Proof It says the kitchen is a treasure chest without using “like” or “as”.

5. What does the author mean by “The kettle sang on the stove”?

- ☐ Grandma sang while she cooked.
- ☐ The radio was playing music.
- ☒ **The kettle whistled as the water boiled.**

Proof A kettle cannot sing, so the author means the whistling sound it makes when water boils.

6. The author says the dumplings were “as soft as pillows”. Write your own simile to describe a food you enjoy.

Answers will vary. Example: The warm bread was as fluffy as a cloud.
