

Enthusiasm

Level 4

"Perfect!" shouted Ava.

Luca grinned. The problem of finding a gift for their mum on this special day had been solved: an awesome breakfast! Couldn't be too hard, they figured, though they'd never actually cooked before.

"Mum would love pancakes," enthused Luca.

"And scrambled eggs," decided Ava. "You check out the pantry, I'll do the fridge."

Giving her a mock salute, Luca set to work.

Holding a bowl of fresh eggs, Anna turned towards the kitchen bench and promptly collided with Coco. The airborne eggs shattered onto the bench. Quick as a wink, Luca scraped them back into the bowl. "Scrambling done!" He announced gleefully. Ava laughed.

Plenty of the flour that was sifted for the pancake batter ended up somehow coating Ava like a snowfall. A little sugar, then milk and a beaten egg were added; the two chefs frequently taste tested the batter - for quality control, of course. Coco had his share also, as blobs of tasty batter kept landing on the floor.



The stove lit, Luca carefully poured some batter into the pan, then when bubbles appeared, flipped the pancake over. Somehow the stack of golden pancakes kept diminishing; the children felt continued taste testing was essential.

Ava busied herself with the scrambled eggs, adding grated cheese and parsley and toasting some slices of sourdough bread. No matter that some of the toast was a little blackened; Coco certainly enjoyed the scrapings.

Mum was enjoying the morning sunshine on the front veranda when Ava and Luca proudly presented her with her birthday breakfast. Her laughing response was not what her children had expected! Mum pointed towards the wall mirror. Ava and Luca turned to see two charcoal-fingered, ghostly figures with thickly coated golden lips staring right back at them.

"I can see you were very enthusiastic!" said Mum. They all laughed together, Coco yapping happily alongside.

Questions

Enthusiasm – Level 4

1. Why did they want to do something special?

2. Who is Coco? How do you know?

3. What two special food dishes did they prepare?

4. What does it mean when Luca gave Ava a 'mock salute'?

5. What does the word 'enthusiasm' mean?

6. Why did Mum laugh when the children presented her with the surprise?

7. Why were Luca's and Ava's fingers the colour of charcoal?

8. Which statements are correct? Write 'True' or 'False' next to each.

- Ava and Luca were professional chefs. _____
- Ava and Luca were unhappy with what they cooked. _____
- Coco licked the batter from the kitchen bench. _____
- Luca and Ava worked hard at their tasks. _____
- Luca and Ava gave up easily when things went wrong. _____
- Luca and Ava had plenty of fun doing their tasks. _____
- Mum was pleased with her gift. _____



Answers

Enthusiasm – Level 4

1. Why did they want to do something special?

It was Mum's birthday.

2. Who is Coco? How do you know?

Coco is their dog. He ate batter off the floor and he was yapping.

3. What two special food dishes did they prepare?

The made pancakes and scrambled eggs.

4. What does it mean when Luca gave Ava a 'mock salute'?

He put his hand up to his forehead to show that he was following the Instructions Ava had given him.

5. What does the word 'enthusiasm' mean?

It means showing a great enjoyment or interest in something.

6. Why did Mum laugh when the children presented her with the surprise?

Mum laughed because Luca and Ava were covered in food.

7. Why were Luca's and Ava's fingers the colour of charcoal?

Their fingers were the colour of charcoal from the burnt toast.

8. Which statements are correct? Write 'True' or 'False' next to each.

- Ava and Luca were professional chefs. **False**
- Ava and Luca were unhappy with what they cooked. **False**
- Coco licked the batter from the kitchen bench. **False**
- Luca and Ava worked hard at their tasks. **True**
- Luca and Ava gave up easily when things went wrong. **False**
- Luca and Ava had plenty of fun doing their tasks. **True**
- Mum was pleased with her gift. **True**

