Year 4 reading comprehension

The night bakery

Poetry | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

Before the town has opened eyes,
A light shines down our street.
Behind the bakery's window rise
The smells of something sweet.

The baker lifts a tray of rolls;
Warm flour dusts her sleeve.
She checks the timer, wipes the bowls,
Then folds the dough with care.

A bicycle leans by the wall;
The first bus hums nearby.
She turns the OPEN sign our way
As morning fills the sky.

I buy a roll, still warm to hold,
And tuck it in my hand.
The street wakes slowly from the cold;
Her working day is planned.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What does the baker lift?

A. A bicycle

B. A bag of coals

C. A tray of rolls

D. A street sign

2. What does the speaker buy?

A. A bicycle

B. A timer

C. A sleeve

D. A warm roll

3. What does “hums” suggest about the bus?

A. It makes a low steady sound

B. It plays a loud trumpet

C. It stops working completely

D. It moves without any sound

4. What does the first line suggest?

A. The town is an actual sleeping person

B. The baker starts work before most people wake

C. Nobody lives on the street

D. The bakery opens only at midnight

5. Why does the baker turn the sign towards the street?

A. To keep the dough warm

B. To show arriving customers that the shop is ready

C. To repair the bicycle

D. To hide the window

6. Which contrast is important in the poem?

A. The quiet waking street and the baker already at work

B. The speaker’s old and new bicycles

C. A sunny beach and a snowy mountain

D. Two bakers arguing about a recipe

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. C. A tray of rolls

The second stanza says the baker lifts a tray of rolls.

2. D. A warm roll

The final stanza begins with the speaker buying a roll.

3. A. It makes a low steady sound

A hum is a low, steady sound, used here for the bus engine.

4. B. The baker starts work before most people wake

The town opening its eyes is an image for people beginning their day, after the bakery is already active.

5. B. To show arriving customers that the shop is ready

The sign turns towards people as morning arrives, suggesting the shop is ready for customers.

6. A. The quiet waking street and the baker already at work

The opening and ending describe a town waking gradually while the baker is already working.

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