Jelly

The Last Piece of Cake

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Who is looking at the cake?
2. How many pieces do you see?
3. Why might someone save a piece?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



The class had a party on Friday.
A round cake sat on a white plate.
It had a thin layer of pink icing.
Everyone got one small piece.



Ben ate his piece very slowly.

He liked the sweet pink icing.

Mina saved the berry on her plate.

Max carried empty cups to the tray.



Soon there was one piece left.
It stood at the edge of the plate.
Ben looked at the pink top.
Mina looked at the door.



"Can I have the last piece?"
Ben held out his empty plate.
Mina put a hand near the cake plate.
"Could you wait a little?" she asked.



Ben pulled his plate back.

"Do you want another piece, too?"

Mina shook her head.

She looked at the door again.



Max came back from the tray.
He saw two friends by the cake.
"What are you waiting for?" he asked.
Ben pointed to the last piece.



"I would like to eat it now."
Ben had liked his first piece.
He had waited until everyone ate.
Now he thought the rest was free.



Mina picked up a clean empty plate.

"My brother Leo is coming later."

"He helped us put up the paper stars."

"I want him to have some cake."



Ben looked up at the paper stars.
Leo had hung two beside the window.
Then he had gone to his own class.
Ben had not seen him eat any cake.



"Does Leo know we saved some?"

Max looked at the door with Mina.

"I said I would meet him here."

"I did not tell him about the cake."



Ben set his plate down.

"I thought you wanted it for yourself."

Mina turned back from the door.

"I forgot to tell you why I asked."



The three friends looked at the piece.

It was wider at the back.

The point had less pink icing.

There was only one berry left.



"What if we cut it in half?"

Max drew a line in the air.

"Ben could have one part now."

"The other part could wait for Leo."



Mina looked at the small piece.

"Leo has not had any yet."

"He might like a whole piece, too."

Ben moved his empty plate away.



"Could we ask him first?"

Ben looked toward the clock.

"We do not have to choose yet."

Mina said she could wait with him.



They asked Ms. Lee for help.
She brought one clear food cover.
Mina placed it over the cake plate.
The last piece stayed on the table.



Ben put his plate on the tray.

Max moved the empty cups aside.

Mina set one clean plate near the cake.

Nobody cut the piece while they waited.



They made a picture for Leo.

Ben drew two of the paper stars.

Mina drew Leo standing under them.

Max left a space for his name.



Ben looked up when a door opened.
Two older children walked down the hall.
Neither child was Mina's brother.
The cake stayed under its cover.



Mina looked at the clock again.

"His class may take a little longer."

Ben thought about the pink icing.

"I can wait until he gets here."



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. Why did Ben ask for the last piece?
2. Who was Mina waiting for?
3. What had Leo done to help?
4. Why did they cover the cake?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What might Leo say when he arrives?
2. What could Ben ask Leo?
3. How can the friends decide together?
4. Share a prediction with a partner.



Max brought over a simple card game.

They sat on the rug to play.

The cake stayed on the table.

Mina kept an eye on the door.



Ben found two cards with red stars.

Max turned a card with a green circle.

Mina heard steps in the hallway.

This time she heard Leo's voice.



Leo came in with his yellow folder.
He saw the stars by the window.
"Did they stay up all day?"
Mina pointed to the two he had hung.



"We saved the last piece of cake."

Mina led Leo to the table.

Ben showed him the picture they made.

Leo smiled at the two paper stars.



"Did everyone get a piece already?"
Leo looked at the white cake plate.
"Yes," said Max, "except for you."
Ben waited to hear what Leo said.



Leo looked at the pink icing.
"I would like some of the cake."
Then he looked at Ben's clean plate.
"Would anyone like to share with me?"



Ben nodded and sat beside him.

"I would like a little more."

Mina asked Ms. Lee to cut the piece.

Leo showed how much he wanted.



Ms. Lee lifted the clear cover.

She cut the piece into two parts.

Leo took the larger part on his plate.

Ben took the smaller part on his.



The berry stayed with Leo's part.

Ben had plenty of pink icing.

"Is that enough for you?" Leo asked.

Ben took one bite and nodded.



Mina brought the picture to Leo.

"Thank you for hanging the stars."

Leo looked from the paper to the window.

"I liked helping you set up."



Max carried the empty cake plate away.

The clear cover went beside the tray.

Mina checked for crumbs on the table.

Ben put his small fork on his plate.



"Next time, we can count first."

Mina looked at the empty cake plate.

"We can set aside a piece for Leo."

Ben thought of someone who came late.



"What if another friend comes late?"

Max looked at the seats around the rug.

"We can ask who is still coming."

Mina drew a tiny plate on a page.



They made a simple party list.
One mark stood for each person.
They left space for a late guest.
Ben put the list in the class folder.



On Monday, Leo brought the picture back.
He had written his name in the space.
He put the picture beside the paper stars.
Mina helped him tape it to the wall.



A week later, the class shared fruit.

They had a bowl of orange slices.

Ben checked who had been served.

Max counted two children still outside.



They put two portions on a clean plate.
Mina carried it to the end of the table.
Ben set the rest out for everyone.
No one had to guess whose food it was.



When the two children came in, they smiled.
Max pointed to the plate that was ready.
"These two portions are for you."
Ben watched them each take one.



One orange slice was still in the bowl.

Mina looked at Ben and grinned.

"Has everyone had some this time?"

Max checked the table and nodded.



Ben held out the bowl to Mina.
"Would you like to share this one?"
Mina smiled and got a clean plate.
This time they both knew the plan.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. What did Ben learn about Mina's plan?
2. How did Leo choose to share?
3. What did the friends do the next time?
4. How did they know who had been served?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. When have you saved food for someone?
2. What can you ask before sharing?
3. How could you plan for a late guest?
4. What could you do with one piece left?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Plan a Snack to Share

Draw a snack for three friends.

Show what you would save for a guest.

I would share _____

I would save this for _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Ask, listen, and share.

Who would you save a piece for?

