Jelly

The Shop with No Sign

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. What helps you recognize a shop?
2. What could a missing sign mean?
3. Who could help you find a place?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Ben walked down the street with Dad.
He carried a small cloth bag.
They wanted rolls for their lunch.
Their usual bakery stood near the corner.



Ben stopped beside its front window.

The blue sign was gone.

There were no rolls on the shelf.

He held his empty bag tighter.



"The bakery has closed," he said.
Dad looked through the clean glass.
A large bowl sat by the window.
Ben knew its yellow flower pattern.



The baker used it for dough.
Ben had seen her lift it before.
Now it stood beside a folded cloth.
There was no baker in sight.



Dad tried the door gently.
It was locked that morning.
Ben looked at the empty sign hooks.
"Where will we buy our rolls?"



A woman swept the next doorway.
Dad greeted her and pointed next door.
"Do you know about the bakery?"
She leaned her broom against the wall.



"I saw a van here yesterday."
The woman pointed down the street.
"They carried the big oven away."
Ben looked back at the yellow bowl.



"So they really did close."
Ben began to turn toward home.
The woman held up her hand.
"They may have moved instead."



She had seen the baker that morning.
The baker carried trays toward the square.
Her apron was still dusted with flour.
Ben looked in the direction she pointed.



Dad thanked the woman for her help.
He and Ben walked toward the square.
Ben kept the bag in his hand.
He hoped it would not stay empty.



At the square, several shops stood open.

One sold flowers in tall buckets.

One had shoes on a bright shelf.

Ben could not see a bakery sign.



He looked at each window in turn.
Dad waited beside him on the pavement.
"What else might help us find it?"
Ben remembered the bowl with yellow flowers.



A small shop stood beside the flower shop.
Its window had a floury wooden board.
A rolling pin lay across the board.
There were no shoes or flowers inside.



Ben stepped closer with Dad.
Behind the board were cooling racks.
A tray held six round rolls.
Ben could see steam near the glass.



"That looks like a bakery."
He pointed to the warm brown rolls.
Dad opened the door beside the window.
A little bell rang above them.



The baker came from the back room.
Her striped apron had flour on it.
She smiled when she saw Ben.
"You found our new shop."



Ben looked around the larger room.
There was space for a small table.
The old shop had no table at all.
The big oven stood along the back wall.



"We saw your empty window."

Ben held up his cloth bag.

"I thought you had stopped baking."

The baker shook her head and smiled.



"We moved here this week."

She pointed to the new oven space.

"There is more room to work here."

Dad looked at the clear, wide floor.



"But where is your blue sign?"

Ben looked above the new doorway.

Two clean hooks waited on the wall.

There was nothing hanging between them.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What was in the old window?
2. What had the neighbor seen?
3. What clues were in the new window?
4. Why was there no sign yet?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What might happen to the old bowl?
2. How could other people find the shop?
3. What could a notice show?
4. What would you ask the baker?



"It is being painted," she said.
"The old paint had started to peel."
She showed him a small photo.
The sign lay on a painter's table.



Ben saw its familiar bread shape.
The blue paint around it looked fresh.
"So the sign will come back."
The baker put the photo away.



Dad asked for four warm rolls.
The baker lifted them with clean tongs.
She slipped them into a paper bag.
Ben put that bag inside his cloth one.



"Your yellow bowl is still there."

Ben pointed toward the old shop.

The baker nodded at his careful look.

"I will collect it this afternoon."



She still needed to clean the shelf.
Then the old keys would go back.
Another family would use that shop soon.
They planned to mend clothes there.



Ben looked at the new front window.
People walked past without looking inside.
"How will everyone know you moved?"
The baker showed him a paper notice.



It had a drawing of a roll.
An arrow pointed toward the square.
Below it was the new shop address.
Dad read the address aloud for Ben.



"I will put this in the old window."

The baker laid the notice on the counter.

"The new sign should be ready tomorrow."

Ben thought of the empty hooks again.



Dad and Ben thanked her and left.
The warm bag rested against Ben's arm.
They passed the flower buckets outside.
Ben looked back at the floury board.



At the old shop, the neighbor waved.
Ben lifted his full bag for her.
"The bakery is beside the flower shop."
Dad told her the new address.



"I am glad you found it."

The woman picked up her broom again.

Ben told her about the painted sign.

She smiled toward the square.



At home, Ben set out the rolls.
Mum brought soup to the table.
Ben told her about the missing sign.
Then he told her what they found.



"The empty window was one clue."
He broke a roll into two pieces.
"But it did not tell us everything."
Dad passed him a small bowl of soup.



The next day, they took the same walk.
The old shop window had a notice now.
Dad read the new address with Ben.
The arrow pointed toward the square.



The yellow bowl was gone from the shelf.
The folded cloth was gone as well.
Only the notice faced the street.
Ben could follow its arrow this time.



At the square, a ladder stood outside.
The painter was putting his tools away.
The blue bread-shaped sign hung overhead.
Ben stopped safely beside Dad to look.



Two people paused under the fresh sign.
One pointed to the rolls inside.
Then they opened the bakery door.
The little bell rang twice.



The baker waved through the window.
Her yellow bowl stood on the back shelf.
Ben waved with his empty cloth bag.
He had come for more rolls.



Inside, he looked around once more.
The sign and bowl were familiar.
The table and wide floor were new.
The bread smelled just as good.



Ben put the fresh rolls in his bag.
Dad held the new shop door open.
They turned toward home across the square.
Behind them, the blue sign caught the sun.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why did the bakery move?
2. Where had the blue sign gone?
3. What did the arrow help people do?
4. What stayed familiar in the new shop?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. What else can identify a shop?
2. Who might know about a local change?
3. What should a moving notice include?
4. How could you check your first idea?



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 ...



Help Someone Find a Shop

Draw a shop and a nearby landmark.

Add an arrow to show the way.

The shop is beside _____

I can recognize _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

