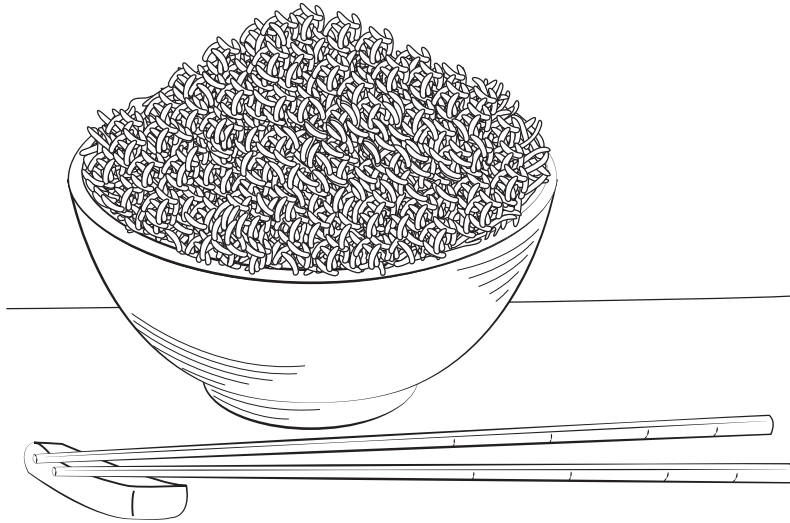


Read the story “Dinner with Ning” before answering Numbers 1 through 10.

Dinner with Ning



Jason was going to Ning’s house for dinner. Ning had just moved here. She lived next door. She was from China. Ning had many stories about China. Her stories were like a door to another world.

Jason and Ning sat together at lunch. Her food looked good. Now, Jason would try some. But what if he did not like it?

Jason had never tasted food from China. Jason’s mom said not to worry. She said to just try it. He did not have to like everything. Jason did not want to hurt Ning’s feelings. He was as worried as a child at a new school.

Ning met Jason at the door. “Please take your shoes off,” she said. “We do not wear shoes in the house.”

Jason met Ning's mom, dad, and brother. He saw a round dinner table. Jason's family ate at a round table, too. But this table had a smaller, spinning table on top. It was full of little bowls. It held many plates of food. Jason's mom never used so many dishes!

Ning pointed to a chair. "This chair is for guests," she said. "Please sit here."

Ning's father showed Jason how to turn the little table. That way he could reach each dish. "You go first," Ning's dad said. "Please take some food."

Jason took soup and rice. He took vegetables. He took chicken, too.

Ning showed Jason how to hold chopsticks. She showed him how to open and close chopsticks like a bird's beak.

Jason picked up a piece of chicken on his first try! It tasted good! Jason liked almost everything. He did not like the rose tea. It was like a flower garden in his mouth! Its strange taste was very unfamiliar.

Ning's family talked and laughed. They were noisy, like Jason's family. But they also slurped soup off their spoons! "Slurping soup is not rude in China," said Ning.

After dinner, Jason told his mom, "I feel like I just ate in China! The food tasted great!"