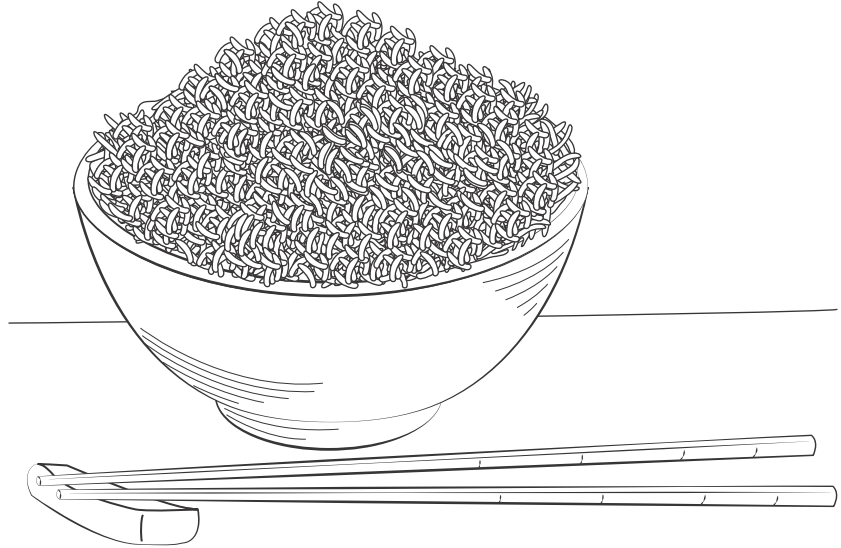


Read the passage “Dinner with Ning” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

Dinner with Ning

Jason was going to his new friend Ning’s house for dinner. Ning had just moved in across the street. She was from China, and she had told Jason many stories about her life there. Ning’s stories were like a door to another world.



Jason and Ning also sat together for lunch at school. She always brought interesting food. Now, Jason would have a chance to try some, but what if he did not like food from China?

Jason’s mom said not to worry. He should taste each food, but Ning would understand if he did not like everything. Still, Jason did not want to hurt Ning’s feelings. Jason felt as worried as a child on the first day of school.

Ning met Jason at the door and asked him to take off his shoes before coming in. “We do not wear shoes in the house,” said Ning.

Jason said hello to Ning's mom and dad and her brother Cheng. They were all standing around a round table. His table at home was also round. But this table had a smaller, spinning table on top. It was covered with little bowls and plates of food. Jason's table was never set this way!

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

Ning's father showed Jason how to turn the little table so he could reach each plate and bowl.

"You go first, Jason. Please take a bit of everything," he said. Jason took some soup and rice. He took some vegetables and chicken, too.

Ning showed Jason how to use chopsticks. He held the chopsticks in his right hand. "Make the ends open and close like a bird's beak," said Ning.

Jason picked up a piece of chicken on his first try! It tasted good! Then Jason tried some rose tea. It was like a flower garden in his mouth! The strange taste was very unfamiliar to him.

Ning's family talked and laughed and were noisy, just like Jason's family. But they also slurped soup off their spoons! "Slurping soup is not rude in China," said Ning. She showed Jason how to lay his chopsticks across his plate when he was done eating. Then it was time to go.

"I feel like I just ate in China!" said Jason to his mom. "The food tasted great!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on "Dinner with Ning."

- 1 Read the sentence from the passage.

Ning's stories were like a door to another world.

What does the phrase "like a door to another world" say about Ning's stories?

- (A) They are hard to understand.
 - (B) They are about life in a big house.
 - (C) They are about life on another planet.
 - (D) They are about people and places far away.
- 2 Which sentence from the paragraph tells you that Ning's dinner table is **different** from Jason's dinner table? Underline the sentence.

Jason said hello to Ning's mom and dad and her brother Cheng. They were all standing around a round table. His table at home was also round. But this table had a smaller, spinning table on top. It was covered with little bowls and plates of food. Jason's table was never set this way!

3 How is Jason treated **differently** at dinner? Pick **two** choices.

- Ⓐ He talks and laughs.
- Ⓑ He is given chopsticks.
- Ⓒ He is given a special chair.
- Ⓓ He must take his shoes off.
- Ⓔ He gets to choose the food first.

4 Read the sentences from the passage.

He held the chopsticks in his right hand. "Make the ends open and close like a bird's beak," said Ning.

Why does the author compare chopsticks to a bird's beak?

- Ⓐ to show how hungry Jason is
- Ⓑ to show how chopsticks move
- Ⓒ to show how big chopsticks are
- Ⓓ to show how birds use beaks to eat

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 5 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: How are Jason's family and Ning's family **alike**?

- (A) Both families use chopsticks.
- (B) Both families come from China.
- (C) Both families are noisy at dinner.
- (D) Both families slurp soup from their spoons.

Part B: Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- (A) Jason picked up a piece of chicken on his first try!
- (B) Ning's family talked and laughed and were noisy, just like Jason's family.
- (C) "Slurping soup is not rude in China," said Ning.
- (D) "I feel like I just ate in China!" said Jason to his mom.

Read the passage “Birthday Wishes” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Birthday Wishes

Robby was writing to his pen pal, Chang, who lived in China. Robby could not think of anything to write. His thoughts kept flying around like birds!

“Write about your birthday party,” said Dad. “You can wish Chang a happy birthday, too.” That was a good idea! Chang and Robby had birthdays in the same month.

Dear Chang,

How are you? I am good. It was my birthday last week. I know your birthday is soon, so happy birthday! What will you do? I had a party at my house, and my whole family came. My uncle even drove in from Texas! I have a lot of cousins, and we played games outside.

Then I opened gifts. My grandma’s gift was the best. She gave me a new bike that is as red and shiny as an apple! Mom made a birthday cake with candles on top. She always puts on an extra candle for good luck. I made a wish and blew out all the candles after my family sang “Happy Birthday.”

I am sending you the good luck candle from my birthday cake. Maybe you can put it on your cake. You can make a wish and blow it out!

Write back soon,
Robby

Soon, Robby got a letter from Chang.

Dear Robby,

I am glad you had a fun birthday. I did, too. I also had a party at home with my family. It was just my mother, father, grandma, and me. My grandma lives with us, so no one had to come from far away.

My family does not eat cake for birthdays, but we do eat special foods. I had long life noodles. They are so long, they look like snakes in a bowl! We believe eating them helps you live extra long, too. I also ate a boiled egg. My mom used dye to make the eggshell red. Red is the color for good luck in China. I put your good luck candle in my egg before I ate it. It burned like a tiny drop of sun. Just like you, I made a wish and blew the candle out after everyone sang "Happy Birthday."

My parents gave me money in a red envelope and my grandma gave me a toy tiger. Tigers are also good luck in China. I drew you a picture of a tiger. Hang it on your wall for your own good luck!



Your friend,
Chang

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on "Birthday Wishes."

- 6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the passage.

His thoughts kept flying around like birds!

What is being compared in the sentence?

- (A) Robby and his dad
- (B) Robby and flying birds
- (C) Robby's thoughts and birds
- (D) Robby's ideas and his friend's ideas

Part B: What does the simile mean?

- (A) Robby's thoughts were noisy.
- (B) Robby's thoughts made him feel sad.
- (C) Robby's thoughts were all about birds.
- (D) Robby's thoughts were going everywhere.

- 7 Which sentence **best** explains why Robby needs help from Dad?

- (A) He needs Chang's address.
- (B) He cannot think of anything to write.
- (C) He does not know how to write a letter.
- (D) He cannot remember his birthday party.

GO ON →

Name: _____ Date: _____

8 How are Robby and Chang **alike**? Pick **two** choices.

- (A) They have birthdays in the same month.
- (B) They have a song sung to them.
- (C) They both have big families.
- (D) They go to the same school.
- (E) They both live in China.

9 Read the sentences from the passage.

I had long life noodles. They are so long, they look like snakes in a bowl!

Why does the author compare noodles and snakes?

- (A) to show what snakes look like
- (B) to show how long the noodles are
- (C) to show that the noodles are scary
- (D) to show that snakes are good to eat

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 10 Write **two** ways that Robby's family is the **same** as Chang's family. Write **two** ways that the families are **different**. Use the list.

How the Families Are the SAME	How the Families Are DIFFERENT

Robby's family eats cake.
Robby's family gives gifts.
Robby's family has a party.
Robby's family comes from far away.



