

Name _____

Date _____

Too Many Spoons

When it comes to most activities, I am always the first to say “the more the merrier.” If a game is being played, I’ll ask everyone in the room to play it. When we have parties, everyone I know is invited. But when it comes to cooking food, the last thing I want is anyone else helping me out.

In the kitchen, space is limited. Only one person can really hover over a sauté pan. Likewise, it takes one person to spice a roast, or one person to chop carrots, or one person to boil some pasta. And, on top of that, there is no space for people other than the spicer, chopper, or boiler. So, why should there be more than one person in the kitchen?

This might sound harsh, but I do not think I am being mean. Rather, I know how the recipe should turn out. And I have very strong opinions about it. When someone else is in the kitchen (my mom, for example), she might over salt something because she likes more salt. Or she might chop the carrots smaller than I like. Or, worse still, she might overcook the meat because she likes it well done. No, the kitchen is one space in which the more is definitely not the merrier.

Put differently, there is an adage* that sums up my feelings about cooking: “too many spoons spoil the broth.” That means that there are certain projects for which one person and one person alone should contribute. Cooking, as the adage suggests, is one of them.

***adage** (*noun*): a proverb or short statement expressing a general truth.

1) According to the passage, the narrator usually

- A. cooks dinner for many people
- B. prefers to be alone
- C. welcomes others
- D. plays board games

2) Paragraphs 2 and 3 primarily provide

- A. reasons supporting a particular opinion
- B. background information on the narrator
- C. examples of things that could go wrong in a kitchen
- D. the main arguments of the passage

3) Which of the following is stated by the narrator as something that could go wrong in cooking with another person?

- A. the two cooks could get into an argument

- B. the dish could end up seasoned poorly
- C. the pasta could boil over onto the stove
- D. the people in the kitchen could run into each other

4) It can be assumed from the passage that the narrator

- A. is generally careless when performing a task
- B. does not cook food for other people all that often
- C. often uses adages to describe the way he or she feels
- D. does not want the reader to think he or she is mean

5) Based on its use in paragraph 4, the phrase "sums up" most nearly refers to

- A. quickly estimating a number
- B. spending a certain amount of money
- C. performing an addition operation
- D. briefly reviewing something

6) The narrator admits that he or she has "very strong opinions" about how food should be cooked. Do you feel the same way? Are you a picky eater, or do you love to eat all kinds of foods cooked all kinds of ways? Why?
