

Comprehension

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

English Language

Read the passage below twice and answer the questions that follow.

Anne bakes the cakes

Nov. 16

Mummy is at last beginning to realize that I am not a little girl like Susie. Sometimes she talks to me as if I'm not old enough to be in school, and yet she knows there are lots of jobs I can help her do. Today for instance, she was doing some baking, as she always does on Saturdays, and I was in the kitchen helping her, also as usual. Suddenly Mrs. Desouza from next door came rushing in, shouting, "Mrs. Robinson! Come quick! Baby is so ill, and I don't know what to do!" Of course Mum ran out at once, only calling to me, 'See what you can do!' I was very sorry about the Desouza baby, who is a darling, and for a moment I thought about him, and hoped he wasn't too ill. Then I **surveyed the situation** in the kitchen.

I knew Mum had planned to make some little cakes. She had already measured out sugar, butter and flour, and had put on the table some milk in a cup, three eggs, a bottle of essence and a tin of baking powder. She had just picked up the cake-pan when Mrs. DeSouza called. I have watched her often enough to know that the first thing to do is to grease the pan, and I was just doing this when Peter came strolling in. 'And what are you doing, may I ask?' he said to me. I told him that Mummy had been called away, and I was doing the baking. 'Hope we don't all die as a result,' was his comment. He can be very sarcastic at times. However, he offered to help, so I gave him a bowl and spoon to mix the butter and sugar, while I beat the eggs. I lit the stove, and adjusted the flame so that the oven wouldn't be too hot. I beat up the eggs, and we stirred the two mixtures together until the whole was smooth and creamy. Next came the flour and milk – and I very nearly forgot the baking powder, without which my cakes would have been as heavy as lead. I measured it carefully, added a little essence, and half-filled the little divisions in the pan. Into the oven it went, and then I made my real mistake – I let the back of one finger touch the side of the oven door. A sharp pain shot up my arm, but I have seen Mummy get slightly burned many a time, so I held my finger under the tap and let the cold water run on it for a little while. The pain soon disappeared, and only a slight mark remained.

Meanwhile Peter was scooping the remains of the raw cake mixture from the sides of the bowl, and sucking it off its fingers. He said it was very good. He washed the bowl while I cleared up everything else, and then it was time to look at the cakes. They had risen beautifully, but they were not quite brown enough. So I gave them five minutes more, then took them out and put them to cool, and I was relaxing with the newspaper when Mum got back. She said that the baby was much better, and went into the kitchen. She could hardly believe her eyes when she saw the cakes, and she said, 'You are coming on!'

1. What phrase tells you that Ann helped her mother on Saturdays? (1pt)

2. What did Ann mean by saying *she surveyed the situation*? (2pts)

3. How did she know she had to grease the pan?(1pt)

4. What other things did Ann do after greasing the pan? (2pts)

5. What did Peter do to help?(1pt.)

6. What things are put together as ingredients to make a cake?(2pts.)

7. What made Ann think her mother treated her like a little girl? (2pts.)

8. Do you agree that burning her finger showed that Ann was not yet ready to help with baking? Explain. (3pts.)

9. Why do you think that Ann had to measure the baking powder carefully? (1pt.)
