A Purim Story: The Purim Cookie Surprise

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Purim is my favorite holiday! I love all of the excitement in the air even before the holiday begins.

Everyone at school is busy deciding what costume they are going to wear. The girls are planning the food for the class holiday party. The boys are planning the music and everyone is helping with the decorations.

It's my job to make enough Purim cookies for everyone to eat at the party. But this year I want to give everyone a surprise. I have a great idea! It came to me when I was eating with my family at a Chinese restaurant on my birthday.

I love Chinese food and my favorite part is opening the 'fortune cookies' at the end of the meal. This is what gave me my idea – the fortune cookies. They look just like Purim cookies, but instead of having sweet jam and fruit inside, there is a small piece of paper. On the paper is a short sentence or words saying what your future will be.

So that's what I'll do! I'll write fortunes for all of my classmates and put them inside the Purim cookies before I bake them in the oven. Then when my friends eat them at the party, they will all get a big surprise!

That was the plan. But like the Purim story teaches us, sometimes things don't turn out as we think they will. Just ask Haman!

I wrote all the fortunes. Thirty-five … one for each pupil in class. I made thirty-five Purim cookies, filled them with jam and, before I closed them up, added my special 'fortune' surprise.

I turned on the oven and waited. Twenty minutes … thirty minutes … thirty-five … then … something smelled funny.

"Gali, what's burning in the kitchen?" my mother called from the living room.

I quickly ran to the oven, opened the oven door and took out my special Purim cookies.

They were black on top and smoke was coming out of each cookie. The paper inside had burnt!

No time for crying over spilt milk! The Purim party at school begins in two hours. I ran to the supermarket and bought thirty-five Purim cookies to bring to the class party.

I won't be able to surprise anyone this year, but next year I'll try again!

Answer these questions about the story:

1. What is Gali's favorite holiday? Why?

   _____

2. What is Gali doing to help with the class Purim party?

   _____

3. What is Gali's 'great idea'?

   _____

4. Where did Gali get this idea from?

   _____

5. What happens to Gali's Purim cookies?

   _____

6. What does Gali do after she sees the cookies are burnt?

   _____

7. Does Gali stay at home and cry or does she go to the class Purim party?

   _____

8. What will Gali do next year?

   _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS