The Saturday Shift



Read the story. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Every Saturday, Nadia worked the front counter at her family's bakery from seven in the morning until two in the afternoon. She boxed muffins, counted change and remembered which regular customers wanted their bread sliced. Her parents depended on her, especially since her older brother had left for college.

On Wednesday, her friend Grace invited her to the science museum on Saturday afternoon, and the bus would leave at one o'clock. Nadia wanted to go more than anything, but Saturday was the busiest day of the week. At first she considered simply asking for the day off. Then she imagined her father alone at the register while the line stretched out the door, and she decided to make a plan instead. That evening, she asked her parents whether she could arrive at five, help package the morning orders and leave at twelve thirty. Her mother raised an eyebrow. "Five o'clock is extremely early," she said. "Are you sure you can be cheerful at that hour?" Nadia promised that she could.

On Saturday, her alarm rang in complete darkness. She was still yawning when she arrived, but she packed forty boxes of dinner rolls before the doors opened and worked the counter all morning without a single mistake. At twelve thirty, her father handed her a bag of cinnamon buns and thanked her for her help. Nadia reached the bus with flour still on her shoes, and she shared the buns with everyone.

1. **What is a theme of this story?**

2. **What does "raised an eyebrow" mean here? What in the paragraph shows it?**

3. **Why did Nadia decide not to simply ask for the day off?**

4. **Was Nadia's plan fair to her family? Support your answer with details from the story.**

Answer key

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1. What is a theme of this story?
   Planning ahead can let you keep your promises to your family and still do something you want to do.

2. What does “raised an eyebrow” mean here? What in the paragraph shows it?
   It means she was doubtful. She then asks whether Nadia is sure she can be cheerful at five o’clock.

3. Why did Nadia decide not to simply ask for the day off?
   She imagined her father alone at the register with the line out the door on the busiest day of the week.

4. Was Nadia’s plan fair to her family? Support your answer with details from the story.
   Sample answer: Yes. She came in two hours early, packed forty boxes of dinner rolls before the doors opened and worked all morning without a mistake. Her father thanked her and gave her cinnamon buns, which shows he thought the plan was fair.