

## Follow the Recipe

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Jonah had to make the dessert for tonight's dinner. His parents were busy, so they had left the task to him. Unfortunately, he'd never baked before. His mother had left all the ingredients and cooking tools out on the kitchen counter, along with a note that said, "Follow the recipe!"



How hard could it be anyway? He glanced at the instructions on the back of the can of pumpkin pie filling. It didn't seem bad. He preheated the oven to 425 degrees, and then began with the pie.

First, he got the pie crust out of the freezer. So far, so good, he thought. Next, he got the can opener and opened the pie filling and the condensed milk. He poured both into a bowl, and then cracked two eggs to go with it. Those needed a good stirring to get the chunks of eggs broken up and the filling consistent.

Now he poured the filling into the crust, but there was a little extra. That he set aside. He wasn't sure what to do with it, and the instructions had been followed exactly, so he wasn't sure why there was any extra at all.

When the oven dinged to show it was preheated, he put the pie in. Then he waited 15 minutes, like the instructions said, so he could turn it down to 350 degrees to finish the pie. Now it was a waiting game, because he was supposed to wait 50-60 minutes before it was finished, but he wouldn't know if it was finished without testing it.

After 50 minutes, he opened the oven, careful of the hot air, and stuck a toothpick into the filling. It came out a bit wet and gummy, so he let it cook 5 more minutes. This time, the toothpick came out clean. The pie was done.

Using an oven mitt, he took the pie out of the oven and set it on his mother's pie cooling rack, like he'd seen her do a hundred times before. He felt pretty good about himself. It smelled great and everything had turned out perfect.

Suddenly, he had some inspiration. He pulled out the cookbooks and looked for pumpkin recipes. He finally found one that could be made with the leftover pumpkin pie filling. It didn't look hard, either. All he had to do was... follow the recipe!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What did Jonah's parents ask him to make?
  - A. turkey dinner
  - B. brownies
  - C. mashed potatoes
  - D. pumpkin pie
  
2. Why can't Jonah's mother make the pie?
  - A. His mom couldn't bake.
  - B. His mom was busy.
  - C. His mom's pie tasted awful.
  - D. His mom hated to make desserts.
  
3. What three words of advice did his mother leave for him?
  - A. Don't goof up!
  - B. Get it done!
  - C. Follow the recipe!
  - D. Don't eat it!
  
4. How did the pie seem to turn out?
  - A. It turned out great.
  - B. It looks awful.
  - C. It's the wrong color.
  - D. It smells funny.
  
5. What did Jonah decide after finishing the pie?
  - A. He decided to make another thing with the leftover pie filling.
  - B. He decided to become a baker.
  - C. He decided to eat the pie before mom got home.
  - D. He decided he could do anything.

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