

Intermediate Short Stories – “Making Dinner”

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version

Beth decided to try to cook dinner for her family one day. Her mother was very busy and did not always have time to cook.



“You don’t know how to cook!” her brother said. Beth looked through cook books. She found some lists of ingredients with instructions on how to make food that she liked. She drove to the grocery store and got all necessary items to make the dinner she wanted. Then she came home and gathered her pots and pans.

The first recipe was too difficult to understand. Beth tried to follow the instructions but the food burned. The second recipe was the same way. She had to throw out the bad food.

Beth was sad because she wanted to do something and failed. She decided to try one last recipe. The last recipe turned out well and when her mother came back home that night, there was a nice hot dinner waiting.

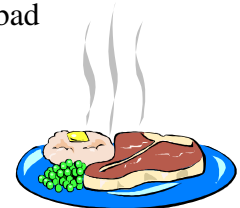
“I guess you can cook after all!” her brother said.

Advanced Version

Beth decided to try to cook dinner for her family one day. Her mother was very busy and did not always have time to cook.

“You don’t know how to cook!” her brother said. Beth looked through cook books until she found some *recipes* she liked. She drove to the grocery store and got the *ingredients* she needed. Then she came home and gathered her pots and pans.

The first recipe was too *complicated*. Beth tried to follow the instructions but the food burned. The second recipe was also too hard. She had to throw out the bad food.



Beth was *disappointed*, but she decided to try the last recipe. The last recipe turned out well and when her mother *returned* home that night, there was a nice hot dinner waiting.

“I guess you can cook after all!” her brother said.

Questions:

1. What was Beth trying to do?
2. What did she do before she started cooking?
3. How did Beth’s first and second tries to make dinner go?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does “*recipes*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 2*)
2. What does “*ingredients*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 3*)
3. What does “*complicated*” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 1*)
4. What does “*disappointed*” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 1*)
5. What does “*returned*” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 2*)