

Name: _____

Surprise Pies

By Neal Levin

Matilda loved tasting pies, which was silly for a goose. Every pie she tried was delicious.

"Guess what?" her friend Benedict said. "There's a pie-tasting contest at the fair tomorrow."

"Sign me up!" said Matilda. "I love tasting pies."

"Don't be silly," said Benedict. "The judges do the tasting. You have to bake the pie."

"Oh," said Matilda. "I don't know if I can do that."

"It's easy," said Benedict. "Easy as pie."

"Yes, baking a pie is easy," Matilda said. "The hard part is deciding which kind."

"Right," said Benedict. "The winning pie must stand out. It must be special. And tasty."

"All pies are tasty," Matilda said. "All pies are special. I don't know what to do."

"Why don't you sleep on it?" Benedict told her.

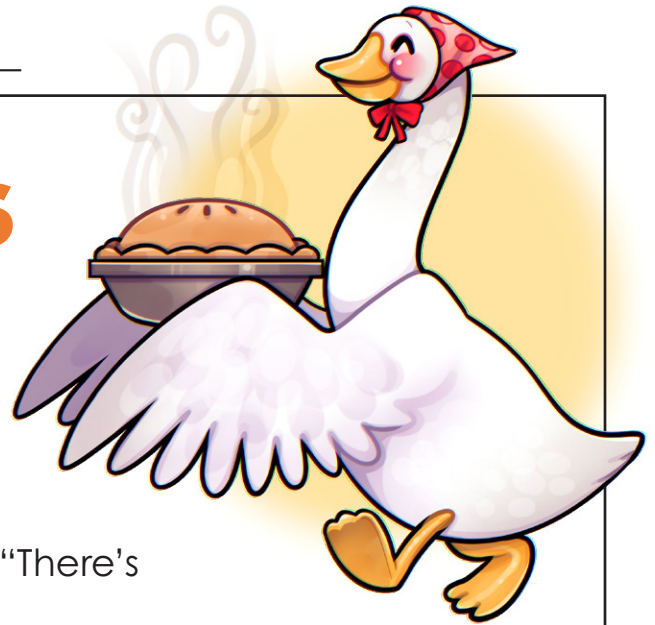
"You mean use a pie as a pillow?"

"Don't be silly. I mean wait until morning. Maybe you'll come up with an idea."

So she did. In the morning Matilda had the best idea ever. It gave her goosebumps.

She rushed to the market to buy ingredients. Then she hurried home.

"I'll make an apple pie," she announced to herself. She took out a small pie pan, sliced apples, rolled dough, and put everything together.



“Next I’ll make a cherry pie,” she said. She took out a bigger pie pan and prepared the cherries and crust. Then she put the apple pie inside the cherry pie.

Finally, Matilda made a gooseberry pie—her favorite—and put the cherry pie inside of that. She popped the whole thing in the oven.

“Three pies in one!” Matilda exclaimed.

She carried her entry to the fair and found Benedict waiting for her.

“Am I late for the pie-tasting contest?” she asked.

“You’re just in time,” Benedict said. “But it isn’t a pie-tasting contest after all. It’s a pie-eating contest. Everyone has to eat the pie they brought. That’s right up your alley.”

“You mean we’re eating in an alley?” said Matilda.

“Don’t be silly,” Benedict said. “I mean it’s something you’re great at. What did you bake?”

“I call it my Surprise Pies.” Matilda stuck a fork in and took a bite. “Mmmmm. The gooseberries are glorious.”

“You’re not supposed to eat yet,” Benedict cried.

“Why not?” Matilda dug her fork deeper. “The cherries are charming. Mmmmm. The apples are absolutely appetizing.”

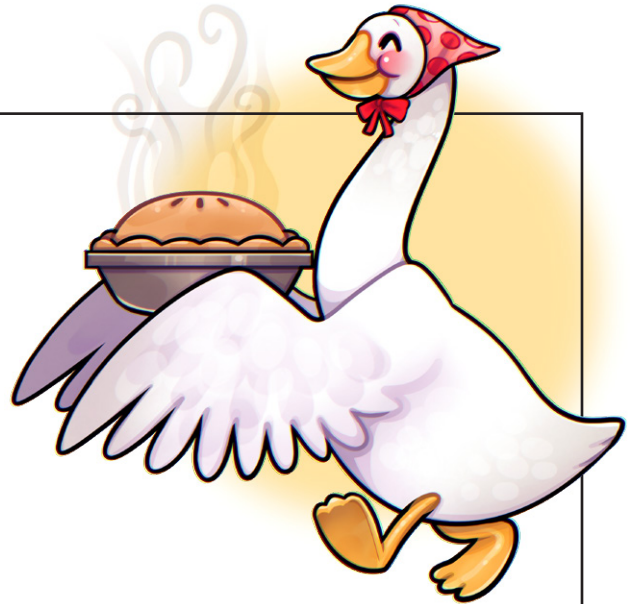
“You silly goose!” Benedict yelled. “You can’t win the contest if you start ahead of time.”

“Who said anything about winning?” Matilda told him. “I just love tasting pies, and all of these pies are delicious!”

Name: _____

Surprise Pies

By Neal Levin



1. What was Matilda's big idea for the contest?
 - a. to bake three separate pies
 - b. to bake her favorite flavor, gooseberry
 - c. to bake the biggest pie ever
 - d. to bake three pies in one
2. What surprise did Matilda learn about the contest?
 - a. She had to eat the pie she made.
 - b. There would be two winners.
 - c. She had to taste the pies other people made.
 - d. The winner had to eat the most pie.
3. A *figure of speech* is a word or saying that uses words to mean something other than their exact definition. The following figures of speech are used in the story. Complete the table to explain what they mean.

Figure of Speech	Meaning
Easy as pie	Very easy
Sleep on it	
Right up your alley	

4. Reread the following sentence from the story.

"You silly goose!" Benedict yelled.

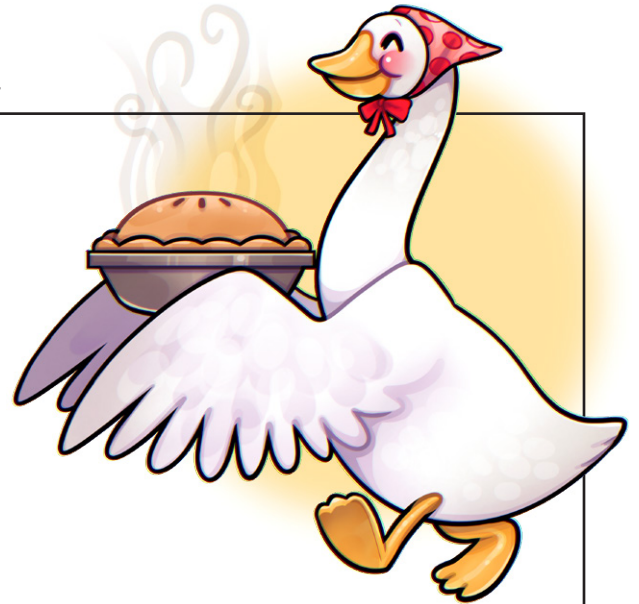
"Silly goose" is another common figure of speech. We use it to tell people they are acting silly. But the author is not using it as a figure of speech in this story. Why?

Name: _____

Surprise Pies

By Neal Levin

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1. a _ _ l _ _ y

clue: a narrow space between buildings

1. _____

2. _ _ l o _ _ _ o u s

clue: amazing; beautiful; wonderful

2. _____

3. _ _ r e _ _ _ r e

clue: to get something ready

3. _____

4. j _ _ d _ _ e

clue: someone who decides about something

4. _____

5. a n _ _ o u n _ _ _

clue: to share news

5. _____

6. g _ _ o _ _ _ b _ _ _ r _ _ e s

clue: mostly-sour berries that look like grapes

6. _____

7. a p _ _ e _ _ i z i _ _ _

clue: when something looks tasty; appealing

7. _____

8. d _ _ _ g h

clue: bread before it is baked

8. _____

9. g o _ _ _ e _ _ u m _ _ s

clue: can get them when cold, scared, or excited

9. _____

10. _ _ n _ _ r e d _ _ e n _ _ s

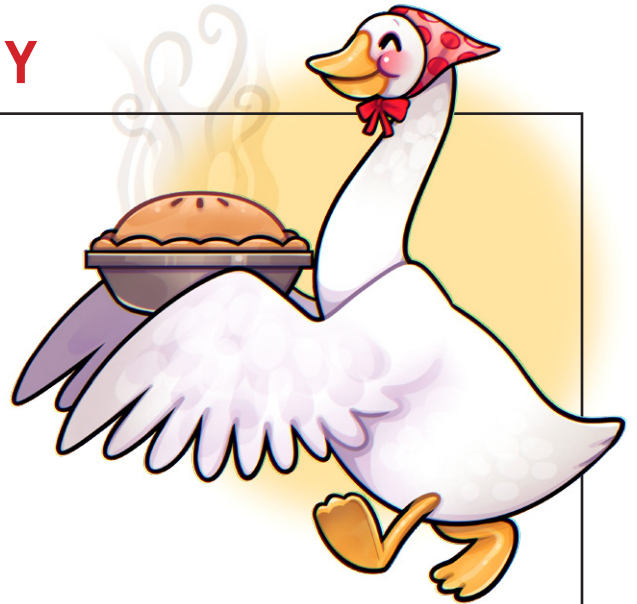
clue: parts used to make something

10. _____

ANSWER KEY

Surprise Pies

By Neal Levin



1. What was Matilda's big idea for the contest?
 - a. to bake three separate pies
 - b. to bake her favorite flavor, gooseberry
 - c. to bake the biggest pie ever
 - d. to bake three pies in one**
2. What surprise did Matilda learn about the contest?
 - a. She had to eat the pie she made.**
 - b. There would be two winners.
 - c. She had to taste the pies other people made.
 - d. The winner had to eat the most pie.
3. A *figure of speech* is a word or saying that uses words to mean something other than their exact definition. The following figures of speech are used in the story. Complete the table to explain what they mean.

Figure of Speech	Meaning
Easy as pie	Very easy
Sleep on it	Wait until morning
Right up your alley	Something you're good at

4. Reread the following sentence from the story.

"You silly goose!" Benedict yelled.

"Silly goose" is another common figure of speech. We use it to tell people they are acting silly. But the author is not using it as a figure of speech in this story. Why?

Matilda really is a goose.

