Think About It!

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS: Read the story “Enemy Pie” in the March/April 2020 issue. Then go back and reread sections of the story to answer the questions below.

1. Read the first section. Why does the narrator start an enemy list?

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2. What is Dad’s solution for getting rid of enemies?

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Think About It!, p. 2

3. Read “What’s in It?” Why won’t Dad give the narrator his secret recipe for Enemy Pie?

4. Read “No Enemies Allowed!” Why does Jeremy seem surprised when he sees the boy at his front door?
Think About It!, p. 3

5. Why is the narrator nervous when he sees Jeremy?

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6. What does the narrator mean when he says that Jeremy “wasn’t being a very good enemy”?

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Think About It!, p. 4

7. How does the picture on pages 16 and 17 help you understand this part of the story?

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8. Read “Losing a Best Enemy.” What do you learn about the narrator’s character when he warns Jeremy not to eat the pie?

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Think About It!, p. 5

9. Why doesn’t Dad, Jeremy, or the narrator feel sick after eating Enemy Pie?

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10. At the end of the story, the narrator says, “I still don’t know how to make Enemy Pie.” Do you think that’s true? Explain.

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Think About It!, p. 6

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTION (a big question about the whole story):

11. Why does Dad say that “Enemy Pie is the fastest known way to get rid of enemies”? What lesson is he trying to teach his son?

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Use this kit to help you build important reading skills as you explore the story “Enemy Pie.”

Directions: In the story “Enemy Pie,” the author does not always tell you how characters feel or why they act the way they do. Instead, you must use clues from the story to make inferences. Read each passage below from the story. Then make an inference to answer each question in bold.

1. Read the first sentence of the story:

   It should’ve been a perfect summer.

What can you infer about how the narrator’s summer is turning out? How does the phrase “should’ve” help you understand the narrator’s feelings about his summer?

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2. Now look at this paragraph from the story:

   While the pie cooled, he filled me in on my job. “There is one part of Enemy Pie that I can’t do. You need to spend a day with your enemy. Even worse, you have to be nice to him. That’s the only way Enemy Pie can work. Are you sure you want to go through with this?”

Why do you think Dad really wants the narrator to spend the day with his enemy?

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3. Think about this section from the story:

“Dad,” I said, “it’s sure nice having a new friend in the neighborhood.” I was trying to tell him that Jeremy was no longer my enemy. But Dad only smiled and nodded. I think he thought I was just pretending.

What is the narrator trying to get Dad to figure out from his words? Do you think Dad understands what his son is trying to tell him?

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4. Now read this section from the story:

“Jeremy, don’t eat it! I think it’s poisonous or something!”

Why do you think the narrator blurts this out? What do you think he’s afraid of?

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5. The story never spells out exactly how Enemy Pie works. From reading the story, what can you infer about how it works? Write your explanation here:

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DIRECTIONS: Below you’ll find the Pause and Think questions from “Enemy Pie” in the March/April 2020 issue. Read the sections that go along with each question, and then answer the questions below.

1. Beginning Section

PAUSE AND THINK: Why doesn’t the narrator like Jeremy?

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2. “What’s in It?” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: What job does the dad give the narrator?

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3. “No Enemies Allowed!” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: Why does the narrator tear down his enemy list?

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4. “Losing a Best Enemy” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: What happens when Jeremy eats the Enemy Pie?

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“Enemy Pie” Quiz

DIRECTIONS: Read the story “Enemy Pie” in the March/April 2020 issue. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. At the beginning of the story, what ruins the narrator’s perfect summer?
   A. His sister goes away to camp.
   B. His dad helps him build a tree house.
   C. He doesn’t know how to make pie.
   D. Jeremy Ross becomes his enemy.

2. What sentence from the story supports the correct answer to question 1?
   A. “He laughed when he struck me out.”
   B. “But he knew a way to get rid of them.”
   C. “I begged him to tell me something—anything.”
   D. “I brought earthworms, but he didn’t need those.”

3. Read this sentence from the story: “Dad squinted at it.” What part of his body did Dad use to squint?
   A. his ears
   B. his mouth
   C. his fingers
   D. his eyes

4. How does Jeremy seem when he opens his door and sees the narrator?
   A. angry
   B. scared
   C. surprised
   D. shy

5. What happens when the narrator takes a tiny taste of Enemy Pie?
   A. His hair falls out.
   B. He thinks it’s delicious.
   C. His friend laughs at him.
   D. He smells something awful.

6. What does the narrator say he lost at the end of the story?
   A. his dad
   B. his friend
   C. his enemy
   D. his tree house
“Enemy Pie” Quiz, p. 2

Short Answer

DIRECTIONS: Answer the question below in a short, well-written paragraph. Make sure to use details from the article.

7. Why do you think Dad won’t tell the narrator what things are used to make Enemy Pie?

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“Enemy Pie” Quiz

DIRECTIONS: Read the story “Enemy Pie” in the March/April 2020 issue. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What is one thing the narrator never had before Jeremy came along?
   A a tree house
   B a trampoline
   C an enemy list
   D an earthworm

2. How does the narrator feel when he smells something really good coming from his kitchen?
   A confused
   B guilty
   C hungry
   D pleased

3. What sentence from the story explains why the narrator feels the way he does in question 2?
   A “‘Enemy Pie,’ he said, satisfied.”
   B “‘Enemy Pie is the fastest known way to get rid of enemies.’”
   C “I listened to the sounds of my dad making Enemy Pie.”
   D “Enemy Pie shouldn’t smell this good.”

4. What does the narrator have to do to make Enemy Pie work?
   A catch a boomerang
   B put his enemy on a list
   C spend time with his enemy
   D give his enemy chewed gum

5. How does Jeremy Ross act when he opens his door and sees the story’s narrator?
   A angry
   B nervous
   C rude
   D surprised

6. Read this sentence from the story: “I think it’s poisonous or something!” What does the narrator think might happen when Jeremy eats the pie?
   A Jeremy will want to be his friend.
   B Jeremy might die.
   C Jeremy will laugh at him.
   D Jeremy might steal the recipe for Enemy Pie.
“Enemy Pie” Quiz, p. 2

7. What sentence from the story supports the correct answer to question 6?
   A “I tried to imagine how horrible it must smell.”
   B “I had saved his life.”
   C “Jeremy was happily eating.”
   D “I still don’t know how to make Enemy Pie.”

8. What does the narrator say he lost at the end of the story?
   A his dad
   B his friend
   C his enemy
   D his enemy list

Short Answers

DIRECTIONS: On another sheet of paper, answer the questions below in a short, well-written paragraph. Make sure to use details from the story.

9. Why do you think Dad won’t tell his son what ingredients go into Enemy Pie?

10. At the beginning of the story, the narrator says, “It should’ve been a perfect summer.” How do you think he feels about his summer at the end of the story? Explain your answer.
Fiction Reading Kit

Use this kit to help you build important reading skills as you dig into the fiction story “Enemy Pie.”

DIRECTIONS: Answer the questions in the lefthand column to compare the story’s narrator at the beginning of the story with how he is at the end of the story.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>At the Beginning</th>
<th>At the End</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>What does the narrator think Enemy Pie tastes like?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>How does the narrator feel about spending time with Jeremy?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>What does the narrator think about letting Jeremy into his tree house?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>How does the narrator feel about Jeremy eating Enemy Pie?</td>
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Sum It Up!
Write one or two sentences to explain how the narrator’s feelings about Jeremy change from the beginning of the story to the end.

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Fiction Vocabulary

Directions: Review the vocabulary words in bold and their definitions in the story “Enemy Pie.” The Vocabulary Slideshow for the story offers additional help with learning the meanings of these words. Then choose one of the writing prompts below and respond to it. (Use the back of this page if you need to.) In your response, use the vocabulary word mentioned in the prompt plus one other vocabulary word from the story.

• Describe a time when you were satisfied with something you did. What did you do and why? What made you feel satisfied with what you did? When you look back on it now, do you still feel satisfied? Why or why not?

• Imagine you must throw a boomerang. Write a short story about where you are and why you are throwing the boomerang. What does the boomerang feel like in your hand? How does it feel when you throw it? What will happen if you throw it successfully? What will happen if you fail?

• Describe a time you felt panicked. What happened that led you to feel that way? Describe what you thought and how you felt. How did you react? What happened to make the panic ease up? How did you feel then?