

Camp Cook-off

Everyone made fun of Brian Pitz. He wasn't like other kids. He didn't play sports. He didn't like games. He didn't wear cool clothes. Brian had no real friends.

Brian's parents worried about him. He was kind and helpful at home. But they wanted him to have fun with other kids. So without telling him, Brian's parents signed him up for summer camp.

Brian had never been to camp. He didn't think he'd like it. But he didn't want to hurt his parents' feelings. He agreed to go for one week. He didn't want his mom to miss his help in the kitchen. Brian and his mom always made special dinners for his dad.

No one sat by Brian on the bus to camp. The other kids whispered to each other. They pointed to Brian and laughed. "I can't wait until the week is over," Brian thought to himself.

Things got even worse when they arrived at the campground. Brian was assigned to a tent with five other boys. The six of them were supposed to be a team all week. They would compete against other teams in camp events. Brian's team was upset. They were afraid they would lose with Brian on their team.

The other boys were right. They lost the frisbee contest. Brian couldn't throw. They lost the relay race. Brian tripped and fell as the other runners sped by. Brian's team even lost the charades game. Brian was a bad actor. Brian didn't think he'd ever make friends at camp.

The last day of camp there was a surprise event. None of the camp kids knew what it would be. Brian's team didn't really care. They thought they would lose anyway with Brian on their team.

Then the camp leader said, "The surprise event is a camp cook-off! Each team will get thirty minutes in the kitchen to make a dish for our final dinner. The leaders will vote on the best one!"

Brian couldn't believe it! He loved to cook! And he was a great cook, that's what his dad always said. He would sure show his team!

Brian's team was last to cook. The other teams made hot dogs, pasta with red sauce, and pancakes. They tasted okay, but they weren't anything special. Brian was getting excited for his chance to prove his talent.

Finally, Brian's team entered the kitchen. Brian was so excited! Brian's team didn't seem to notice. "Let's just make hot dogs too," one of his team members said. The others started complaining about cooking.

Brian stopped listening to them. He found all kinds of tasty foods and spices. While

his team argued, Brian made fancy chicken enchiladas. His team looked up when they smelled something delicious. "Wow!" they exclaimed when Brian gave them a taste.

Of course, Brian's team won the cook-off. He was so proud! His teammates asked him to teach them to cook. He agreed - if they helped him with throwing and acting!

1. How often did Brian go to camp?

- A. He had been to camp many times.
- B. He had never been to camp before.
- C. He went to camp once every summer.

2. What did Brian make for the cook-off?

- A. Special pancakes.
- B. Hot dogs on a bun.
- C. Chicken enchiladas.

3. How was Brian different from other kids?

- A. He didn't play sports or games or wear cool clothes.
- B. He didn't like to go to fun places with his parents.
- C. He didn't like school and got into trouble a lot.

4. How did Brian feel when he found out he was going to camp?

- A. He thought it was a good idea.
- B. He thought camp would be fun.
- C. He didn't think he would like it.

5. What did Brian like to do at home with his mom?

- A. Help her cook.
- B. Help her clean.
- C. Help her dry dishes.

6. Why did Brian's parents sign him up for camp?

- A. They wanted to go somewhere without Brian.
- B. They wanted him to have fun with other kids.
- C. They wanted him to have his own fun vacation.

7. Where did Brian stay at the camp?

- A. In a tent all by himself.
- B. In a tent with other boys.
- C. In a cabin with other boys.

8. What made Brian happy when he found out the surprise event was a cook-off?

- A. He felt that he could win because he was a good cook.
- B. He was glad that he didn't have to play another ball game.
- C. The cook-off was the last event, and then he could go home.

9. How did the other boys feel about having Brian on their team?

- A. They were mad at Brian because he had never played any games before.
- B. They were happy that they had another team member to help them win.
- C. They were afraid that Brian would make them lose all their games.

10. What made Brian think he would never make friends at camp?

- A. He was a bad player and made his team lose games.
- B. He didn't know how to talk or play with other children.
- C. He wanted to be home and not at the summer camp.

11. What happened after Brian's team won the cook-off?

- A. His teammates asked him to cook some other dishes.
- B. His teammates wanted him to play some more games.
- C. His teammates wanted him to teach them to cook.

12. What did Brian do while his teammates were complaining about having to cook?

- A. He told the team to just make something easy like hot dogs.
- B. He didn't listen to them and made a fancy dish all on his own.
- C. He told his team to help him out so they could win the cook-off.