

◀ GUIDED PRACTICEDue Monday,
October 9

Read the passage. Write your answers to the boxed questions as you read to check your understanding.

Marvelous Meatball Sauce

My brother Alex is a fussy eater. Mom usually tries to work around his eating habits. She says that he's only four years old and that being a fussy eater is probably a stage he'll outgrow. I did hear her say once that she wished he would outgrow this stage as quickly as he outgrows his shoes. But most of the time Mom is tolerant of Alex's behavior.

Alex went through one phase in which he wanted all of his food to look like animals. For a while, it seemed as though Mom was making food to fill up an entire zoo. We had biscuits baked in the shape of bears, pears cut to look like turtles, and butterfly snacks made with celery sticks and pretzel twists.

Mom sometimes asks me to help make Alex's lunches. I enjoy the creative challenge of making food for him. I've discovered that tortillas and cheese slices can resemble just about anything if you own an assortment of cookie cutters.

One weekend, Mom had to be away for a business trip, so Aunt Ronda came to stay with us. At that time, Alex was fussier than ever. He liked strange combinations of foods, like peanut-butter-and-ham sandwiches and tuna with ketchup.

Aunt Ronda wanted to make us her prize-winning meatballs and sauce. She reminded me how I used to beg her to make that dish when I was younger, and she was convinced that Alex would love it just as much. I did think my aunt's meatballs-and-sauce dish was delicious. But I worried that Alex wouldn't feel the same way and that her feelings would be hurt.



1. Predict what the speaker of the passage will do at this point. Underline the clues you used to make your prediction.

Because I knew that Alex wouldn't go near regular spaghetti sauce, I offered to make a sauce that I knew he would love. Aunt Ronda seemed hesitant at first and asked what ingredients I was going to use. I was afraid that if she knew exactly what I had in mind, she wouldn't go along with my plan. "It will be a surprise. Just trust me. I'm sure you'll like it," I told her. She finally agreed to be surprised.

While Aunt Ronda prepared the meatballs, I busied myself with making the sauce. . . . I rummaged around in the refrigerator and pantry to find the perfect ingredients. Then I heated regular spaghetti sauce on the stove and mixed in some spicy chili sauce. Next, I added some strawberry jelly and stirred the sauce until the jelly melted. Believe it or not, my crazy sauce started to smell wonderful!

2. Did you predict correctly what the speaker was going to do? If your prediction was not correct, revise it.

3. Make a prediction about how Alex will react to Aunt Ronda's meatballs. Explain your answer.