

Cupcake Conundrum



By Heather E. Schwartz
Illustrated by Shiane Salabie

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Materials

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Chapter One



A GREAT IDEA

Jazmine could hardly wait to see Mrs. Gupta and explain her idea. But a stranger was blocking her classroom doorway.

“I am Miss Parks,” she explained. “I’ll be your substitute teacher this week.”

“All week?” Jazmine asked. “But we’re supposed to share our newspaper articles today!”

“Don’t worry, we will,” Miss Parks said.

After math, it was time for current events. Jazmine waved her arm wildly.

“All right, you may go first,” Miss Parks said.

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READING

For Review Only

Jazmine walked to the front of the room. Before she started reading, she turned to Miss Parks.

“Last week, my article was about how a tree fell on the roof of the homeless shelter,” she explained. “This article is about a fundraising event they’re having on Saturday to fix the roof.”



Jazmine read her article to the class. The last sentence said they still needed people to help. That was the part that had her so excited.

“Could our class help?” she asked. “I bet we could raise a lot of money!”

Miss Parks shook her head. “I’m afraid we have to stick to the schedule that Mrs. Gupta left for me,” she said.

While the other students read their articles, Jazmine couldn’t even listen. All she could think about was the shelter. She really wanted to help. Mrs. Gupta would have understood.

During recess, Jazmine’s friends tried to cheer her up.

“I’m sure the shelter will raise enough money without us,” Mia said.

“Other people will help,” Isabella agreed.

Jazmine wished she could easily explain why this cause meant so much to her. It was complicated. But, they were good friends. Maybe she should try.

“Last year, my family stayed at that shelter,” she said, looking at the ground. “This was before my mom found a job and we moved into our apartment.”

Her friends were quiet for a moment.

“I had no idea,” Mia said. “I can’t imagine what that was like for you. I can see why this means so much to you. If they helped you, we *have* to help them!” She and Isabella gave Jazmine a big hug.

“Come over after school,” said Isabella. “We’ll think of a way to raise money.”

“Thank you for understanding,” Jazmine said as she wiped away some tears. “I was nervous to tell you because it was a really hard thing to go through.”

“It sounds like it,” Isabella said. “I’m sorry you went through that!”

“Thanks,” Jazmine said. “I can’t come over today, though. My sister is taking me to the grocery store to buy cupcake ingredients for my mom’s birthday.”

“That’s it!” Mia said excitedly. “We can make and sell cupcakes at the shelter’s fundraising event!”



Cupcake Conundrum

Jazmine and her friends want to bake and sell cupcakes to earn money for a good cause. But they run into problems when they learn their plan will cost money, too.

Reading Levels

Guided Reading: O

DRA Level: 30

Lexile® Level: 590L

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ISBN-13: 978-1-0876-0536-4



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