

# After-school class teaches boys how to cook

By Philadelphia Inquirer, adapted by Newsela staff

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The boys at Lewis Elkin Elementary School are enjoying their new cooking class.

The class is led by two teachers, Jeanne DeVine and Bonni Dias. It is part of an after-school cooking class. Children in the class learn how to make healthy food.

This class only has boys in it. Ms. DeVine said she did not want the boys to think that only girls can cook. There will be a class for girls in the fall.

## The Boys Help Each Other Cook

This week, the boys made chili. They topped it with homemade guacamole. First, they read the directions. Then they decided how to share the work.

The boys all wore tall chef's hats. Ezequiel Valdez came up with that idea. He is 10 years old.

The boys began to cook. They washed, peeled and cut up the vegetables. For flavor, they used spices and cilantro. They also opened cans of tomatoes and beans. The boys mashed avocado for the guacamole.

Kevin Melendez is 10 years old. He was good at cutting the veggies. Ms. Dias joked that he would have a cooking show someday.

Christopher Moran-Vivar is also 10 years old. He cooked the onion in a pan. Kevin added vegetables to the pan. He waited until the onion finished cooking.

## The Results Are Delicious

The boys had never eaten chili without meat in it before. But the chili, Ms. DeVine explained, was very good for them. It had plenty of vegetables in it. It also had beans, which have protein like meat. Ms. DeVine told the boys they do not have to eat meat all the time to be healthy.

The boys set the table. Once the vegetables had all been cooked, they added them to the beans, tomatoes and cilantro. Then the chili was ready.

Ezequiel served the chili. Everyone passed around the guacamole. All was quiet as the boys ate.

NEWSELA: After-school class teaches boys how to cook

The boys were not friends before the cooking class, Ms. DeVine said. But now they get along well.

Ms. Dias said this class is the best part of her day.

**Quiz: After-school class teaches boys how to cook**

1. Which of these events happened FIRST?
  - A) The boys made chili.
  - B) Ms. Dias ordered the hats.
  - C) Ms. DeVine had an idea for the class.
  - D) The boys became friends.
  
2. Read the section "The Results Are Delicious." What is "chili?"
  - A) a meal without meat
  - B) a meal made with avocado
  - C) a meal with vegetables and protein
  - D) a meal that is easy for boys to cook
  
3. What happened because Ms. DeVine started a cooking class?
  - A) Kids are starting to like healthy foods.
  - B) Kids are being split into boy and girl classes.
  - C) Kids are asking their teachers for chili.
  - D) Kids are not getting along in school.
  
4. Read the sentence from the section "The Results Are Delicious."

“Ezequiel served the chili.”

What does the word "served" mean?

  - A) handed out
  - B) cooked
  - C) helped with
  - D) added to

NEWSELA: After-school class teaches boys how to cook

**Answer Key: After-school class teaches boys how to cook**

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. A

**READING SKILL: Recognizing descriptions** ▶ 1.1

**1** Choose all the adjectives that match the description.

- 1 Mark does not talk a lot or laugh. He is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 serious       not friendly       lazy       quiet
- 2 Rosa does not like to clean. She is kind of a \_\_\_\_\_ roommate.  
 lazy       outgoing       serious       shy
- 3 Takako laughs and talks a lot. She is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ person.  
 calm       fun       outgoing       honest
- 4 Erik is quiet. He is also nice. He is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 serious       calm       lazy       shy
- 5 Tania listens to music. It is very loud. She's a \_\_\_\_\_ neighbor.  
 serious       calm       lazy       noisy

**2** Find the adjectives below in the text. Make sentences. Use *is* or *is not*.

- 1 Bezhan / Anika's new roommate  
Bezhan is Anika's new roommate.
- 2 Bezhan / excited  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Anika / fun  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Anika / a serious student  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Anika / ready for college.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**READING: Practice**

3 Read the student profiles. What other adjectives do you think describe the writers?

## Email between Roommates

**Subject:** Hi Roommate!

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Hi Anika,

My name is Bezhan. I am your new roommate! I'm 18. I'm from Egypt. I'm in the business school. I like to listen to music and dance! I have so many clothes to pack! Are you ready for college?

I'm excited to meet you!

Bezhan

*"The greatest thing in the world is to know how to be oneself." —Montaigne*

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**Re:** Hi Roommate!

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Hi Bezhan,

I love the quote at the end of your email! I'm 19, and I am from India. I'm not ready! I have a lot of books to pack! I love reading. I am a serious student, but I'm fun! 😊

What do you think of this quote? *"The things that we love tell us what we are."*  
—Thomas Merton

Anika

—Montaigne, selected from *Oxford Essential Quotations*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Susan Ratcliffe

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4 Complete the chart. Write *not given* for information not in the reading.

	Anika	Bezhan
1 How old is she?	_____	_____
2 Where is she from?	_____	_____
3 What does she study?	_____	_____
4 What does she have to pack?	_____	_____
5 What does she like?	_____	_____

**5** Answer the questions using complete sentences.

1 Is Anika in college?

*Yes, she is.*

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2 Is Bezhan shy?

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3 Is Bezhan 18?

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4 Is Anika from Egypt?

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5 Is Anika a student?

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**6** Match the beginning of the sentence in A with the ending in B.

**A**

1 Bezhan's email ends with the quote: \_\_\_\_

2 Anika shares the quote: \_\_\_\_

3 Bezhan asks Anika the question: \_\_\_\_

4 Anika says \_\_\_\_

5 Bezhan and Anika share \_\_\_\_

**B**

a "Are you ready for college?"

b "I'm not ready!"

c "The greatest thing in the world is to know how to be oneself."

d information about themselves.

e "The things that we love tell us what we are."

