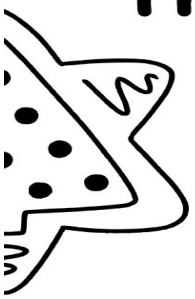
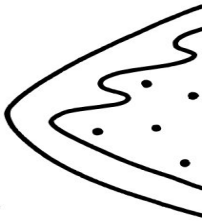
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The Secret to Grandma's Christmas Cookies

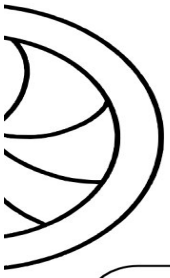




Every December, the warm, sweet smell of cinnamon and vanilla filled Maya's house. It was time for the annual family tradition: baking Grandma's famous sugar cookies.

Maya stood on a stool by the kitchen counter, wearing her green apron. Grandma handed her a wooden spoon and a big ceramic bowl. "The key to perfect cookies," Grandma said with a smile, "is patience and a pinch of love."

First, they mixed the butter, sugar, and flour into a smooth dough. Maya rolled the dough flat using a rolling pin. Next came Maya's favorite part: picking out the shape cutters! She chose a star, a gingerbread man, and a giant Christmas tree.





After placing the shapes onto a baking sheet, Grandma slid them into the oven. As they baked, Maya decorated the red and green frosting bowls with colorful sprinkles. When the timer buzzed, the golden-brown cookies came out looking picture-perfect.

Before anyone could take a bite, Maya carefully iced a star cookie and gave it to Grandma. "Thank you for teaching me, Grandma," Maya said. Grandma hugged her and replied, "Sharing them with you is the sweetest part of Christmas."

Answer the questions using full sentences.

1. What was Grandma's secret key to making perfect cookies?

_____

2. What did Maya do before anyone else took a bite of the cookies?

_____

3. What did Grandma say was the "sweetest part of Christmas"?

_____