For Advanced Kid Learners

Book 3

Time to Talk

Lesson 8 The Myth of Cake and Candles

Answer the questions.

What food do you usually have on your birthday?

Why do we eat cakes on birthdays?

Read and learn.

The Myth of Cake and Candles

Every year, we celebrate our birthday with cakes and candles. We light the candles, make a wish and then blow out the candles.

The ancient Greeks believed that the smoke from the candles carried their wishes and prayers to gods. Others believed the smoke helped to protect them from evil spirits.

blow out

prayers - the words someone says when praying or making a wish

prayers

evil spirit - a harmful spirit, such as a devil

evil spirit

Read and learn.

Modern people think differently but they hope the tradition can bring the birthday person good luck. Many people believe that the birthday person must make a silent wish before blowing out the candles. The person cannot tell anyone else the wish, or it will not come true.

good luck

silent

Read and learn.

If the person blows out all the candles in one breath, the wish will come true. And the person will have good luck throughout the year.

The birthday cake has also become a symbol of love. Everyone can get a slice. People gather together to celebrate and to have a good time. Again, the birthday person needs to cut the first slice for good luck.

in one breath
= one straight blow

slice
= a piece of cake that has been cut from a larger cake

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

evil spirit	silent	In one breath
prayers	blown out	good luck

1. Some people believe _____ can keep them away from _____.

2. _____, all the candles were _____.

3. The four-leaf clover is said to be a symbol of _____.

4. We should be _____ when making a wish.

Grammar

throughout
from beginning to end

Examples

I pray for good luck throughout the year.

He really enjoyed throughout his birthday party.

Dad works hard throughout the day.

➕ Make your own sentences using "throughout"

_____ throughout the year.

_____ throughout the party.

_____ throughout the meal.

Look, listen and answer.

Myths	Symbols	Good luck
Cake		
Candles		