

15

A family saved by community fridges



Level:

Let's think!

1. Do you usually order more than you can eat when you eat out? Why or why not?
2. Where do you think the unwanted food goes?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



Characters:

Maisy—Supermarket staff member, single mother of three

Mr Yu—Supermarket manager

Old lady—NGO beneficiary

Nick—NGO volunteer

Narrator: Under the food safety laws, many supermarkets throw away unsold food which has passed the sell-by dates. Few of them donate it to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that rescue surplus food for the disadvantaged communities. Maisy, a single mother of three, works as a staff member in a supermarket. One day, the supermarket manager asks her to meet him in his office. 5

Scene 1 In the manager's office

Maisy: (*Nervously*) What's the matter, sir? I'll finish stocking the shelves in just a second! 10

Mr Yu: (*Sighs*) Maisy, the security system spotted you stealing AGAIN! Our policy of discarding all stale food has been implemented for years!

Maisy: But sir, no customers would buy these bruised fruits or damaged vegetables. I couldn't bear seeing edible food being dumped. This is so wasteful ...

Mr Yu: (*Annoyed*) So? That doesn't give you the right to take it home! 15

Maisy: Please sir, have mercy on me and my poor kids. We haven't had enough to eat for weeks. Most of my salary goes to rent. I really don't have much left to pay for food. Seeing the unsold food go to waste while knowing that we could still eat it, I just ...

Mr Yu: (*Impatiently*) Maisy, I'm not interested in your family matters. (*Shows Maisy the way out of the office*) If you're upset working here, you're free to resign! 20

Maisy: No sir! It's not what I meant ... (*On the brink of tears*)

Mr Yu: (*Hands over a letter*) You are let off with a warning letter this time. You'd better get back to work now. (*Signals Maisy to get out*)

Scene 2 In the supermarket

Old lady: (*Stumbles towards Maisy*) Hey Maisy, please don't bother. I can go pick up the cardboard boxes myself. 25

- Maisy:** (*Sobs*) Oh hi, you're early today. The cardboard boxes are at the ...
- Old lady:** What's wrong? Are you having a bad day?
- Maisy:** The manager gave me a warning letter today for taking food home for my kids. (*Sobs even more*) What's wrong with that? No one wants expired food anyway and my kids haven't eaten a full meal for a long time. 30
- Old lady:** Oh dear, I'm sorry to hear that. Why don't you go get fresh food from the nearby community fridge? I go there every day.
- Maisy:** Community fridge? What's that?
- Old lady:** I didn't know about it until I was hospitalised for my stomach ulcer. How did I know irregular meals would give me that! The kind nurse there told me about the community fridges in our neighbourhood. These fridges, which are freshly stocked every day, are for everyone in need. All the food there is free! 35

Scene 3 Outside a community fridge by an NGO

- Nick:** (*Chants slogans*) Take what you need. Leave what you can. Free food for all. 40
- Maisy:** (*Hesitantly walks towards Nick*) Really? Can I really take any food I want? (*Holds in tears*)
- Nick:** YES! (*Hands out a bag of vegetables to Maisy*) All the food here was junked by grocery chains and supermarkets. We have small shops which donate unsold food to us as well. Our goal is to reduce food waste and help the needy in the community. Please take whatever you need. (*Smiles*) 45
- Maisy:** I can't thank you enough for this! (*Whimpers*)
- Nick:** You're more than welcome. I've lost my job due to the recession. With two kids at home, I have to do whatever possible to bring food home. The community fridge is like a lifebuoy to us. Not wanting to be considered a leech, I repay what I get from it by volunteering here. I restock the fridge, clean it and maintain its condition. I hope that more people in need can benefit from it. 50
- Maisy:** I couldn't agree more! Our community is a family. The community fridge is a full bowl! Can I also join as a volunteer? (*Gratefully*)
- Nick:** (*Heartily*) Of course. The more the merrier. C'mon.

~700 words

Looking into Grammar

We use **defining relative clauses** to give key information about nouns. We use **non-defining relative clauses** to give extra information about nouns.

- ✓ Many supermarkets throw away unsold food **which** / **that** has passed the sell-by dates.
- ✓ These fridges, **which are freshly stocked every day**, (~~, that ...~~) are for everyone in need.

? Underline ONE similarly structured sentence in scene 3.

Read the text and answer questions 1–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (32 marks)

1. Use a maximum of THREE words to complete the following sentence based on the information in lines 4–8.

Instead of (i) _____ unsold, expired food to NGOs, supermarkets throw it away as a result of the (ii) _____.

2. Why is the word 'AGAIN' (line 11) capitalised?

The playwright wants to stress that (i) _____ and to show the manager's (ii) _____.

3. Mark the food item(s) that Maisy tried to take from the supermarket with a tick (✓).



4. (i) In lines 11–15, find a sentence in which alliteration is used.

4 Alliteration is the repetition of the same initial sound in a line of words.

(ii) The playwright uses alliteration to create _____.

- A. a rhythm
B. a suspense

- C. a mystery
D. a clear idea

- A B C D

5. Find words in scene 1 to match the following definitions.

(i) _____ (*adj.*) no longer new or fresh

(ii) _____ (*phr. v.*) to not punish someone who has done something wrong or to only give them a light punishment

6. Based on the information in scene 1, complete the summary by writing a maximum of TWO words for each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

To Maisy, (i) _____ unsold stale food created (ii) _____. She thought that the food was still (iii) _____ to eat. To the manager, he had to follow the policy (iv) _____ by the company. He ended up issuing Maisy a (v) _____.

7. Read scene 1. Determine whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) The manager lived a wasteful lifestyle.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Maisy pleaded with the manager to empathise with her situation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) The manager was indifferent to Maisy's difficulty.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Maisy got fired from her job.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. What does each of the following 'that' refer to in scene 2?

Pronoun	Line	Reference
that	30	(i) _____
that	32	(ii) _____
that	36	(iii) _____

9. (i) Based on the information in scene 3, what was Maisy's initial response to the slogans on the community fridge?

A. skeptical

C. critical

B. spiteful

D. indifferent

9 A stage direction tells actors what actions to perform and how to perform them.

A

B

C

D

- (ii) Justify your answer above with a stage direction.

The stage direction ' _____ ' shows what Maisy thought about the community fridge.

10. Based on the information in scene 3, what are the TWO food sources of community fridges? (2 marks)

Source 1: _____

Source 2: _____



11. Find a sentence in which simile is used in scene 3.

11 We can use simile to compare one thing to another with the words *like* or *as*.

12. What does the phrase 'Not wanting to be considered a leech' (line 49) mean?

Nick did not want people to consider him a leech as he (i) _____ without

(ii) _____ for it. This is similar to a leech that feeds on others.



13. (i) Find a sentence in scene 3 that describes how close people in the community were. Name the literary device used in the sentence. (2 marks)

Sentence: _____

Literary device: _____

- (ii) Find a sentence in scene 3 which uses the same literary device to describe how much food a community fridge offers. _____

14. What is the main purpose of this play?

A. to teach people how to reduce food waste in daily life

B. to share the life story of a single mother

C. to raise awareness of the problem of inequalities in access to food

D. to complain about the wasteful policy in supermarkets

A

B

C

D

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the crossword puzzle below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

beneficiary (n.)

condition (n.)

disadvantaged (adj.)

expired (adj.)

grocery chain (n.)

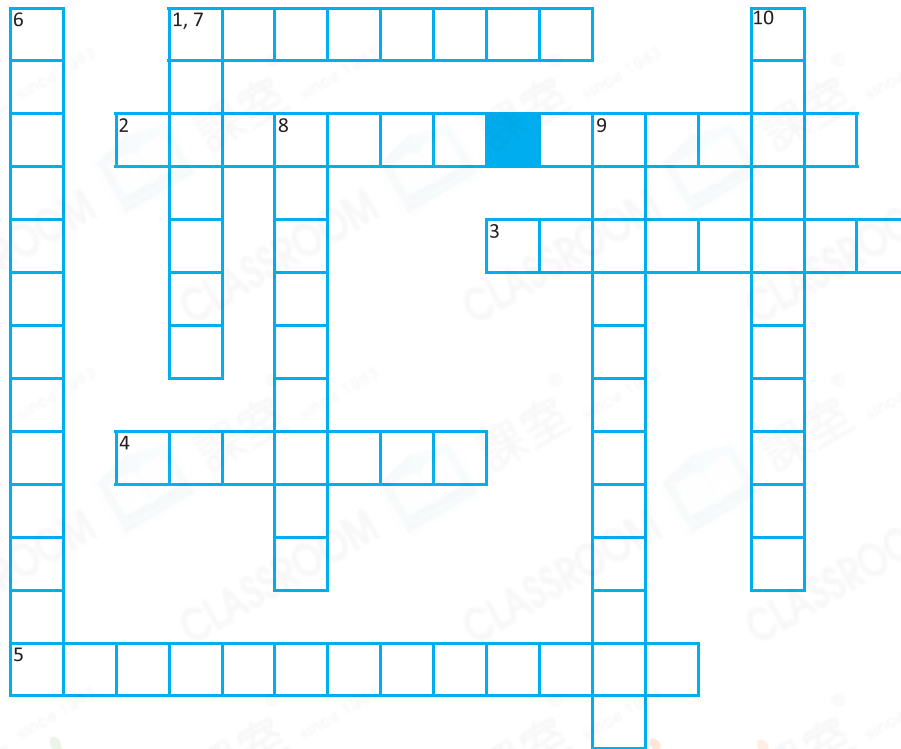
hospitalise (v.)

neighbourhood (n.)

stumble (v.)

surplus (adj.)

wasteful (adj.)



Across:

1. The horse _____, and the rider almost fell to the ground.
2. These _____ provide delivery service for the elderly.
3. It is _____ to order too much food and leave it uneaten.
4. The supermarket discards _____ products due to food safety laws.
5. This voluntary service centre holds regular activities for _____ groups to make them feel that they belong.

Down:

6. The district councillor proposed to add more sports facilities in the _____.
7. The food bank encourages people to donate _____ food to them.
8. This store donates unsold products that are in good _____ to non-governmental organisations.
9. The old man was _____ for a heart attack.
10. The _____ of the donation is grateful to the donors for their help.

B. Put the words related to human needs in the right categories.

Five levels of human needs

clothing

competence

friendship

law

nutrition

security

self-fulfilment

stability

self-actualisation



- exploration

1. _____

esteem needs



- dignity
- reputation

2. _____

social needs



- love
- belongingness

3. _____

safety needs



4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

physiological needs



- water

- sleep

7. _____

8. _____

Writing

Do you have a habit of saving food?

Write an article about ways to save food in about 200 words.