Unwritten Rules

Notice how everyday expectations change across communities.

P.7.1 "Understand and identify social norms and how they differ across cultures."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions that show an unspoken expectation, and circle two details that show how expectations differ between Hana's and Leo's families.

Dinner at Hana's Home

1. At a student exchange dinner in Seoul, Hana paused at the doorway while her guest, Leo, stepped inside. Hana placed her shoes on a shelf and offered Leo a pair of indoor slippers. Leo had kept his shoes on at several friends' homes in Chicago, so he had not expected to change. He followed Hana's lead. No sign listed a rule, and nobody threatened a penalty. Hana explained that many households in South Korea leave outdoor shoes by the door to keep living spaces clean. She added that families differ, even within one city.

2. Later, Hana handed a small package of snacks to her grandfather using both hands. At dinner, Leo noticed that she waited for her grandfather to begin eating before she picked up her chopsticks. In Hana's family, these actions showed respect for an older relative. Leo described a meal at his aunt's home in Chicago, where guests usually begin once everyone has food, regardless of age. There, a guest might pass a package with one hand without seeming rude. Neither meal has a universal rule: family habits, relationships, and the setting all shape what people expect.

3. Leo first assumed Hana's pause at the table meant she disliked the food. After watching the others, he realized her pause had another meaning. Hana also learned that Leo's first step through the doorway was not meant as disrespect. When people meet an unfamiliar custom, they may mistake an ordinary action for a message it does not carry. A useful response is to notice what others do and ask a respectful question, such as, 'Would you like me to leave my shoes here?' Observing a pattern can help someone identify a norm, but one family cannot speak for an entire culture.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What different expectations about shoes does Leo encounter at Hana's home and at some of his friends' homes in Chicago?

2. How does the expectation about when to begin eating differ between Hana's family and Leo's aunt's home?

3. What does Hana's way of handing over the package show in her family, and why might the same action look different at Leo's aunt's home?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to say that every family in South Korea follows the doorway custom Leo saw?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine visiting two community celebrations with different customs for greeting adults. In four sentences, describe each group's norm, explain how you would identify the difference, and give a respectful response without claiming everyone in either community acts alike.

Unwritten Rules

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three actions that show an unspoken expectation, and circle two details that show how expectations differ between Hana's and Leo's families. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What different expectations about shoes does Leo encounter at Hana's home and at some of his friends' homes in Chicago?	**At Hana's home, outdoor shoes are left by the door. At several friends' homes in Chicago, Leo has kept his shoes on.**
2	How does the expectation about when to begin eating differ between Hana's family and Leo's aunt's home?	**Hana waits for her grandfather to begin. At Leo's aunt's home, guests usually begin once everyone has food, regardless of age.**
3	What does Hana's way of handing over the package show in her family, and why might the same action look different at Leo's aunt's home?	**Using both hands shows respect for an older relative in Hana's family. At Leo's aunt's home, passing a package with one hand might not seem rude.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say that every family in South Korea follows the doorway custom Leo saw?	**Hana says families differ, even within one city. One family's practice does not establish a rule for an entire culture.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At one community celebration, teens greet adults with a handshake, while at another, teens greet adults with a small bow. I would watch how people greet one another before joining in. If I was unsure, I would ask a host which greeting is welcome. These patterns may guide me, but I would not assume everyone in either community follows them.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that distinguish a household practice from a universal cultural rule. For Part 3, look for two distinct norms, a way to identify them, a respectful response, and a qualification that avoids stereotyping.