

Nasi Lemak Morning

Every Saturday, Nenek cooks. This Saturday, she needs help.

3 min read

Before you read

- **Nenek** — grandmother, in Malay
- **stall** — a small shop in a market
- **pandan** — a green leaf that makes rice smell sweet
- **steam** — hot white cloud from cooking food



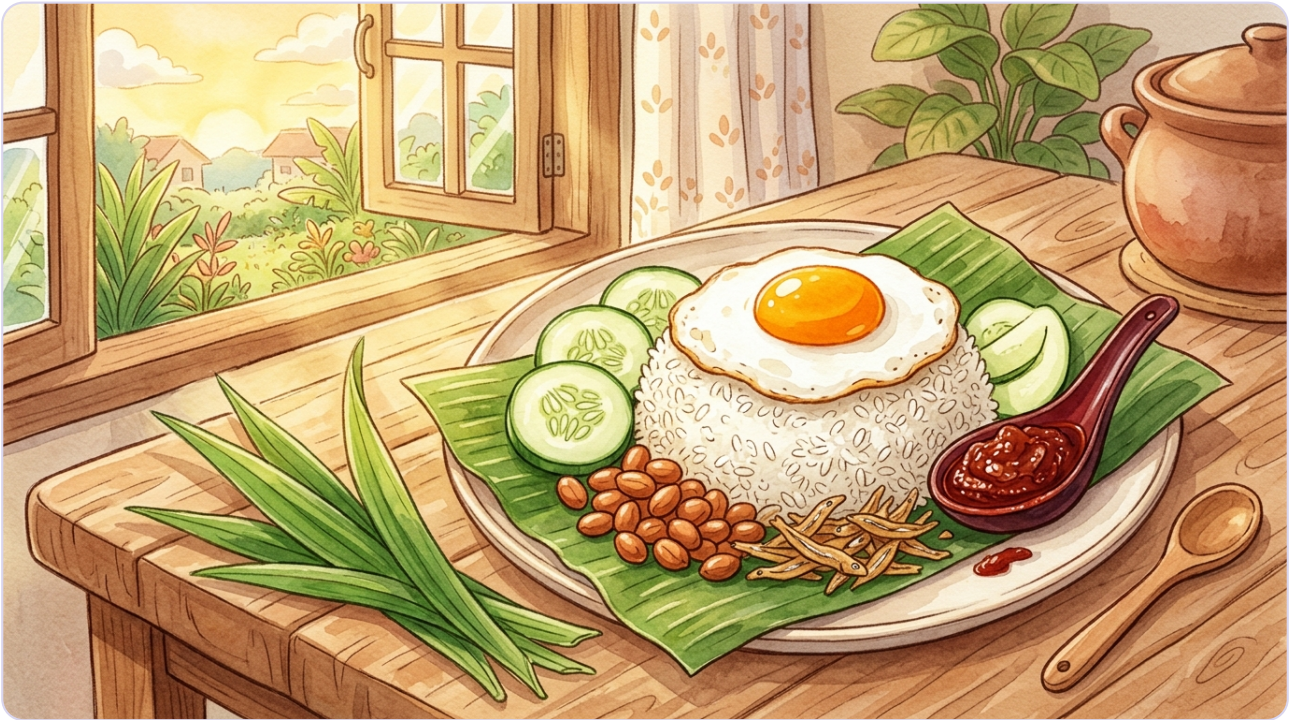
Saturday morning at the market

- ¹ On Saturday, Nenek wakes me early. We go to the market.
- ² The market is loud. People call out. Bags bump my legs.
- ³ We buy rice at one stall. We buy eggs at another.
- ⁴ Nenek lets me carry the pandan leaves. They smell sweet.



The pandan goes on top, and the waiting begins

- ⁵ At home, Nenek washes the rice. I put the pandan on top.
- ⁶ The pot gets hot. Steam goes up to the ceiling.
- ⁷ "Not yet," says Nenek when I reach for the lid. "Good rice waits."
- ⁸ I wait. It is hard.
- ⁹ At last Nenek lifts the lid. The whole kitchen smells like pandan.



Ready at last

- ¹⁰ We put rice on the plates. Nenek adds egg and cucumber.
- ¹¹ My little brother runs in. "Is it ready?" he shouts.
- ¹² "It is ready," I say. I carried the pandan, so I say it first.

Part A Choose the best answer

Circle the letter next to the right answer.

1. What day do they go to the market?

- A Monday
- B Friday
- C Saturday
- D Sunday

2. What does the child carry home?

- A the eggs
- B the pandan leaves
- C the rice
- D the plates

3. What does Nenek say when the child reaches for the lid?

- A "Not yet."
- B "Hurry up."
- C "Go outside."
- D "Take it."

4. Who runs into the kitchen at the end?

- A Nenek
- B the little brother
- C a neighbour
- D nobody

Part B Write your answer

Answer in one or two sentences.

5. How do we know the market is a busy place?

6. Why does the child get to say 'It is ready' first?

Part C Think deeper

There is no single right answer here. Say what you think, and say why.

7. Nenek says 'Good rice waits.' What do you think she means? Does it only mean rice?

8. What is something your family does together that you like? Say why you like it.

Answer key

For parents and teachers

Part A

1. **C** — Saturday | 2. **B** — the pandan leaves | 3. **A** — "Not yet." | 4. **B** — the little brother

Part B

5. It is loud, people call out, and bags bump the child's legs. Accept any one of these.
6. Because the child helped make it — they carried the pandan and put it on the rice. Accept any answer showing the child connected helping with the small reward.

Part C

These answers vary. Mark the reasoning, not the answer.

7. The literal answer — rice needs time to cook — is correct and fine at this age. A stronger answer reaches the bigger idea: good things take time, or being patient is worth it. Do not push a six-year-old to the second meaning; accept the first, and prompt with: do you think she only meant rice?
8. Any honest answer with a reason. The skill is linking an activity to a feeling. If the child names only the activity, prompt with: what makes that your favourite part?

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