

The Cupcake Fiasco

By Mrs. Webster

“I don’t know what happened,” I said, shaking my head in bewilderment. “I was certain that I’d ordered enough. I counted backwards and forwards. Twice!” I looked up at my party-planning parter, Ely, who looked less than impressed.

“Well, obviously you should have counted a third time,” she snapped.

I stared into the boxes and sighed. In one of them, thirty dark chocolate cupcakes stared right back at me. Literally. I had asked the kitchen staff at Hogwarts to make them for the Halloween party Ely and I were planning, and they had squeezed two huge mounds of white icing onto each cupcake with a chocolate chip at the top to make eyes. It was kind of creepy.

Suddenly, I took a hasty step backwards. I’d blinked, and could have sworn that one of the cupcakes had blinked back. That was too weird, even for Hogwarts.

“Alright,” Ely grumbled. She pulled out a piece of parchment paper and a quill. “Let’s try this again.”

The problem: Ely and I want to make sure we have enough food at our party. Here’s what we’re thinking:

- 3 cupcakes per person
- 29 gummy worms/ person
- 159 sprinkles/ person

In order to figure out how many people we have to plan for, we came up with these numbers:

- There are roughly 10 students in each year per Hogwarts house.
- There are four Hogwarts houses (yes, we’re even going to invite the Slytherins...)
- There are seven years of schooling in total at Hogwarts.

How many cupcakes, gummy worms and sprinkles will we need to have the kitchen staff make?

*If you’re able to solve this and still have time left, come up with your own foods (they can be as “normal” or “crazy” as you’d like) that you’d like to see at the Halloween party and how many of each food you think each student should be able to have. Figure out the total amount that the kitchen staff will need to make. REMEMBER TO SHOW YOUR THINKING.