

# Cootie Middle School Dance

## Facts, Opinions, Commonplace Assertions

The dance last night at Cootie Middle School turned into a crazy event! Even though the dance started at 8:00 p.m., nothing exciting happened until almost 10:00, unless you count the totally weird dance moves everyone was trying out. Even though dancing is good exercise and a healthy activity, don't bring out your moves until you've practiced and mastered them, right? With the hip-hop blaring and kids dancing and looking awkward, the dance was in full swing. At exactly 9:56 p.m., though, everyone's heart stopped because *BAAM!!* Twelve ceiling tiles in the cafeteria fell down, pink insulation floated through the air and crumbled up sheetrock and tiles crashed to the floor as dust billowed up all around the room. Breathing in that stuff from inside the ceiling of any building is not the healthiest, either. Most kids were dancing like crazy in the two gyms, but all the food and drinks were located in the cafeteria. That's the worst part, too. Yeah, no kids were hurt, but all the food was ruined! Completely ruined! There was a ton of the best pizza ever that was just covered with this layer of powdered, crumbly sheetrock stuff that fell from the ceiling. It turns out that there had been a family of raccoons living in the ceiling, and when I say family, I'm talking about a very large, extended family! It's as if every raccoon in the area decided to move into the cafeteria ceiling! At some point, that poor ceiling couldn't bear any more weight, and it just so happened that it gave way and fell through during our Cootie Middle School dance last night.

Circle the facts (It can be proven that...)

Underline the opinions (It cannot be proven that...)

Draw a square around the commonplace assertions (This is common knowledge)

# Family Night

## Facts, Opinions, Commonplace Assertions

OMG! Last night we had “Family Night.” I thought it was going to be so boring and lame! My mom and step-dad insisted that since us kids are now getting older and since we’re all involved in so many activities, we have to have “Family Night” once every two weeks so we can stay close. For the record, Family Night begins promptly at 6:30 and lasts until we all go to bed. We can’t do a quick Family Night and then rush out to our other friends and stuff. It’s a whole night kind of thing. I’m 13, my older sister Jayce is 16, and my younger brother Jon is 8. I’m playing baseball on two teams now, one for school and one is select. Little Jon plays flag football and he has like 12 practices a week. And then there’s Jayce who started her first job at Icicle’s Ice Cream Shop along with her cheerleading practice and her boyfriend and her online shopping thing that she does all the time. Yeah, we’re a busy family obviously. It’s ridiculous how busy we are. Bleh!! Mom and Step-dad have a point, I guess.

So for Family Night, we made pizza together. No, we didn’t order it and then eat as a family; we literally rolled up our sleeves, propped up the iPad with the recipe instructions on it, and got to work. We actually made the pizza dough from flour, sugar, salt, and a bunch of other ingredients. Making pizza dough from scratch is very messy, but so much fun! After making the dough and rolling it out, we piled the ingredients on: sauce, cheese, pepperoni, little olives, more cheese (the usual pizza ingredients). Jayce added some pineapple chunks which are so gross, but not as bad as Step-dad’s anchovies. I threw on those little black olives (yummy) and Jon insisted on more cheese. And more cheese. That kid is going to turn into a cheese ball.

Family Night wasn’t that bad at all! Our pizza came out of the oven about 18 minutes after putting it in at 400 degrees, and it was great! I about cried out loud because I bit into my slice too soon and it burned the top of my mouth. Now I have that little piece of skin hanging down from the roof of my mouth from the burn. We laughed, we made fun of each other with cheese and sauce dripping down our faces, and then we made another pizza and kept eating! No two Family Nights can be identical, but I think the next one should definitely involve us cooking together something messy for dinner. The messier, the better! I’m actually looking forward to it now!

Circle the facts (It can be proven that...)

Underline the opinions (It cannot be proven that...)

Draw a square around the commonplace assertions (This is common knowledge)

## On Your Own

### Facts, Opinions, Commonplace Assertions

Write your own expository passage using facts, opinions, and commonplace assertions. Use them all throughout your essay!

When you are finished, find a classmate who is also finished and switch papers. Or, if your teacher gives you a certain amount of time, go ahead and switch papers even if you're not quite finished.

See if you can identify each other's facts, opinions, and commonplace assertions!