



Leo and Pip's Fraction Picnic

Aloha Mayo



Under a big leafy tree, Leo the Lion and his best friend Pip the Bird spread out a picnic blanket. They have a delicious round pizza and a long chocolate bar to share. I am so hungry for some math and snacks, Leo says with a big smile.



Leo uses a pizza cutter to divide the whole pizza into four equal slices. Look Pip, I made four equal parts, Leo explains. Pip chirps happily while watching the pizza turn into four perfect triangles.



Leo puts one slice on his plate and one slice on Pip's plate. I have one out of four pieces, which is one-fourth, Leo says. Pip looks at his plate and says, and I have one-fourth too!



Leo points to the numbers on a small chalkboard they brought along. Since both our fractions have a four on the bottom, they are called similar fractions, he tells Pip. The bottom number tells us the pizza was cut into four pieces in total.



So, as long as the bottom number is the same, they are similar? Pip asks curiously. Leo nods and explains that it means the wholes were divided into the same number of equal parts.

THE MAGICAL BOOST



Next, they reach for the chocolate bar which is already divided into eight small squares. This time, the total number of parts is eight, the narrator explains as the friends count the squares together.



Leo takes three squares of chocolate, and Pip takes two squares. Leo writes down $\frac{3}{8}$ for himself and $\frac{2}{8}$ for Pip on the chalkboard. Even though we have different amounts, our fractions are still similar, Leo explains.



Pip looks at the numbers $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{2}{8}$ and notices the bottom number, eight, is the same for both. I see it now, they are similar because they both come from the same eight-piece bar, Pip chirps excitedly.



Suddenly, their friend the turtle arrives with a cake cut into six slices. Leo asks, if I have one-sixth and you have four-sixths, are they similar? Pip shouts, yes, because the bottom number is six for both!



The sun begins to set as the friends finish their treats. They learned that similar fractions are just fractions that share the same denominator. Math is as easy as pie, or pizza, Pip laughs as they pack up their blanket.