

Unlikely Friends in Brussels

****Please do not translate while reading the article or answering questions. I need this to gather data on what needs to be focused on in our classes****

In a cozy café in Brussels, three friends met for their usual Sunday chat. Amélie, a Belgian woman in her thirties who worked as a nurse, sipped her coffee and looked at her friends with a smile. Next to her sat Sophie, a young Austrian girl who had just started her first job as a teacher. Across from them was Pierre, a French man who worked as a chef in a nearby restaurant.

"How is your new job, Sophie?" Amélie asked, her eyes bright with interest.

Sophie sighed and took a sip of her tea. "It is very hard," she admitted. "I have so much to learn, and sometimes I feel lost."

Pierre nodded in understanding. "Starting a new job is always tough. When I began working as a chef, I made many mistakes. But each mistake taught me something important."

Amélie leaned in closer. "Yes, everyone makes mistakes. What matters is that you keep trying and never give up."

Sophie smiled, feeling a bit better. "Thank you. It helps to hear that. What about you, Amélie? How is your work?"

Amélie shrugged. "Work is okay. I enjoy my job, but sometimes I feel tired. There are so many things to do, and not enough time."

Pierre chuckled. "That sounds familiar. In my kitchen, we are always busy. But I love cooking, so it does not feel like work."

Sophie looked thoughtful. "Do you think it is important to love your job?"

Pierre nodded. "Yes, I do. When you love what you do, even the hard days are easier."

Amélie smiled warmly. "And if you do not love your job, find something in it that makes you happy. A small thing can make a big difference."

Sophie took another sip of her tea. "You both give good advice. I will try to remember that."

As the afternoon sun began to set, the friends continued their conversation, sharing stories and laughter. They knew that no matter how hard life and work could be, they had each other to lean on.

Comprehension Questions

1. Where do the three friends meet for their chat?
2. What is Amélie's job?
3. What is Pierre's job?
4. How does Amélie describe her feelings about her work?
5. What advice does Pierre give Sophie about starting a new job?
6. What does Pierre say makes even the hard days easier at work?
7. How does Amélie suggest finding happiness in a job one does not love?
8. What is the main message of the conversation between the friends?