

**GROGGY • MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S • RULE OF THUMB (Girls)**  
**By Carole L. Cooney**

Today, these idioms have different meanings than in the 18<sup>th</sup> century:

- “groggy” means being tired, sleepy, unsteady, faint, or dizzy.
- “mind your p’s and q’s” means be careful, watch out, pay attention, or look out.
- “rule of thumb” means a common practice - any practical, though not entirely accurate, method that can be relied on for an acceptable result.

**Setting:** Susan’s bedroom at a pajama party

**Characters:**

Narrator

Ava

Jessica

Susan

Lisa

Nancy

**Narrator:** Five girl friends are enjoying a pajama party. They’ve been watching their favorite movie, while eating popcorn and drinking sodas.

**Jessica:** Oh, I’m getting stuffed and groggy. Susan, do you think we could get some sleep now?

**Susan:** Absolutely not! Let’s go make some cookies! Come on, Jess – you’ll wake up when you smell them baking.

**Nancy:** Okay. I’ve got this great recipe – I mean I’ve never tried it but I think we can make it.

**Narrator:** The girls run squealing and laughing into the kitchen. They stand around the kitchen table.

**Ava:** Okay. Nancy, what do we need?

**Nancy:** Well, if we mind our p’s and q’s, I think we can make them. There’s flour, and chocolate chips, sugar and cinnamon, an egg and what else do you think we need?

**Susan:** I think we need some soft butter.

**Jessica:** (getting butter from the refrigerator) OK. I’ll just put some in the microwave to soften it.

**Susan:** Okay. Nancy, how much butter and sugar do we need?

**Nancy:** I guess two cubes of butter and two cups of sugar. That sound like a good rule of thumb?

**Ava:** I’ll get the Mix Master and start the sugar and butter blending. That’s the way Grandma Kay starts her cookies.

**Susan:** Sounds good to me. Let's measure the flour and I think we'll need some baking soda, too.

**Jessica:** Let's put the chocolate chips in with the flour and baking soda.

**Nancy:** Now we mix the egg into the butter mixture and then add it to the flour mixture.

**Lisa:** Can I stir it? (She begins to stir the mixtures together)

**Nancy:** Oh, let's add some cinnamon!

**Jessica:** Yes! That'll taste delicious!

**Lisa:** It's done. Now what?

**Nancy:** Now we put small tablespoons of mixture onto the baking sheets and into the oven to bake.

**Susan:** What temperature should I set the oven at? And how long?

**Ava:** I think 350 degrees for 12 minutes would be a good rule of thumb. What do you think, Nancy?

**Nancy:** Perfect.

**Narrator:** The girls put small mounds of cookie dough onto the baking sheet and pop them into the oven. They wait. Suddenly the timer goes off.

**Susan:** Okay. Let's see what's cooking! Let's mind our p's and q's as I take them out of the oven. We don't want to get burned. (She carefully removes the baking sheet from the oven)

**Everyone:** (practically screaming) They look terrific! Nancy, you did a great job! Let's eat!

**Jessica:** (teasing) I don't think Ava should have any. I think she's still too groggy.

**Ava:** I am not! I'm wide awake and I want a cookie. Please.

**Narrator:** The girls laugh as they hug Ava. Cookies are passed around. The milk is poured into glasses and they sit around the kitchen table enjoying their feast.