

Teacher's Handbook



Books on the Menu® is a Program Created by
Reading Is Fundamental® to Inspire Young People to Read and Learn



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Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF®) develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate older children to read. Through a national network of teachers, parents, and community volunteers, RIF programs provide books and other essential literacy resources to children at no cost to them or their families. RIF's highest priority is the nation's neediest children, from infancy to age 11.

Through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education, RIF provides federal matching funds to thousands of school and community-based organizations that sponsor RIF programs. RIF also receives private support from hundreds of corporations and foundations, thousands of local organizations and businesses, and countless individuals.

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Program Reproducibles

Menu Planners

As mentioned throughout this handbook, we have created “Menu Planners” to assist older bookmates in preparing for their Read Togethers. All Menu Planners correspond to the books in the core *Books on the Menu* collection. Following all 24 Menu Planners is a blank Menu Planner form that you can use to create new ones for your students or have your older bookmates use to create their own.

Menu Planners are included for the following titles:

- M-1. *Bread and Jam for Frances* by Russell Hoban
- M-2. *Bread Bread Bread* by Ann Morris
- M-3. *Chicken Little* by Steven Kellogg
- M-4. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
- M-5. *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins
- M-6. *Everybody Cooks Rice* by Norah Dooley
- M-7. *Family Pictures (Cuadros de Familia)* by Carmen Lomas Garza
- M-8. *Feast for Ten* by Cathryn Falwell
- M-9. *Gregory, the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- M-10. *How My Parents Learned to Eat* by Ina Friedman
- M-11. *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*
by Marjorie Priceman
- M-12. *I Need a Lunch Box* by Jeanette Caines
- M-13. *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone
- M-14. *Mel’s Diner* by Marissa Moss
- M-15. *More Spaghetti, I Say!* by Rita Gelman
- M-16. *Paper Crane* by Molly Bang
- M-17. *Peanut Butter and Jelly: A Play Rhyme* by Nadine Westcott
- M-18. *Pizza Party* by Grace Maccarone

- M-19. *Sheep Out to Eat* by Nancy Shaw
- M-20. *Stone Soup* by Tony Ross
- M-21. *The Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron
- M-22. *Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola
- M-23. *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco
- M-24. *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto

Please make copies of the Menu Planners for older bookmates to use. Please note that all Menu Planners are double sided. If your site is mainly using the core Books on the Menu collection in your program, your site will be using these Menu Planner reproducibles often.

Four Alternate Titles with Menu Planners are:

- M-25. *Alphabet Soup* by Kate Banks
- M-26. *Jalapeño Bagels* by Natasha Wing
- M-27. *The Ugly Vegetables* by Grace Lin
- M-28. *Walter the Baker* by Eric Carle

Bread and Jam for Frances

by Russell Hoban

Frances is a badger who eats only bread and jam. She won't give other foods a try—until her parents and her best friend, Albert, help change her mind.

Before we read...

- Tell each other some of your favorite foods.
- What are some foods you don't like?

While we read...

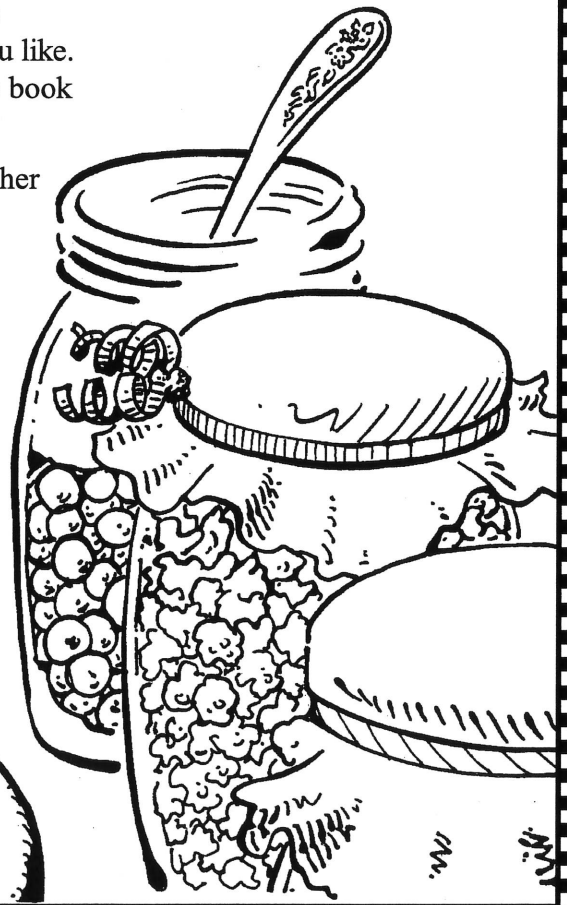
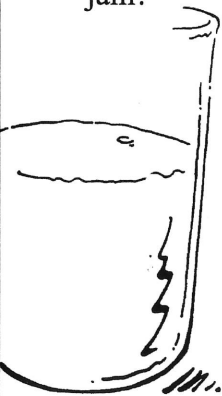
- Explain what it means when Albert makes his lunch "come out even." Have you ever done that?
- When do you start to notice that Frances may be changing her mind about eating bread and jam?

After we read...

- What do you think made Frances change her mind?
- Make up a song like Frances does. Sing it together.
- Draw your favorite lunch inside a lunchbox. Label what is in the lunchbox.
- Make a book together of "Foods We Like." Draw or cut out magazine pictures of foods you like. Paste them into the book and label them.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

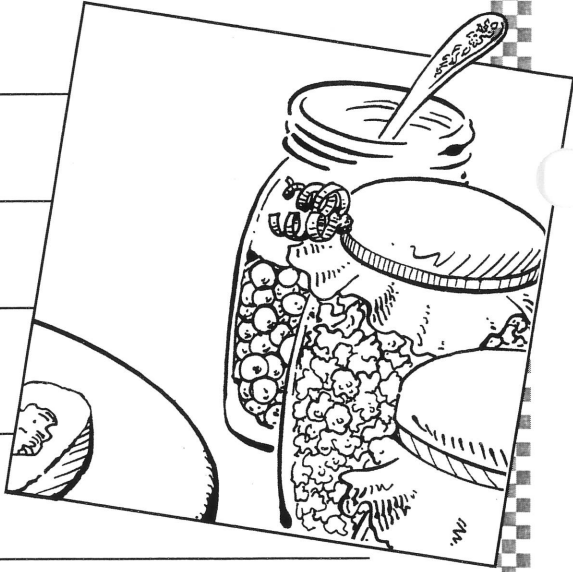
- There are more books about Frances, including *Best Friends for Frances*.
- In *More Spaghetti, I Say!*—another Books on the Menu title—you can meet another character who can't get enough of one food.



Bread and Jam for Frances

- When you and your bookmate talk about Frances changing her mind, see if you can both find clues in the words or pictures that let you know what she is thinking. Tell each other if you have ever changed your own mind about a food.
- If it doesn't embarrass you, try to sing Frances' songs when you come to them in the story. Any old tune will do! Teach your bookmate the songs, too!
- If you and your bookmate plan to draw your favorite lunches, ask your teacher for two copies of the Lunch Box Activity Page. Help your bookmate label his or her lunch items.

• Your Notes/Ideas:





Bread Bread Bread



by Ann Morris

Photographs in this book show all sorts of people eating all sorts of breads from around the world.

Before we read...

- Make a list of all the kinds of bread you know—rolls, cornbread, rye bread, and so on. Check the ones you have eaten before.
- Look at the cover and decide if this picture was taken in the United States. You can check your answer by looking in the Index on page 30.

While we read...

- For each photo, see if you can name or describe the kind of bread pictured.
- Decide whether each picture is from this country or another country. Are there clues in the picture to help you guess?

After we read...

- Add new breads you have learned about to your bread list.
- Look through magazines and cut out pictures of different breads. Paste your pictures in a book and label the breads.
- Invent a super sandwich and write directions for making it.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

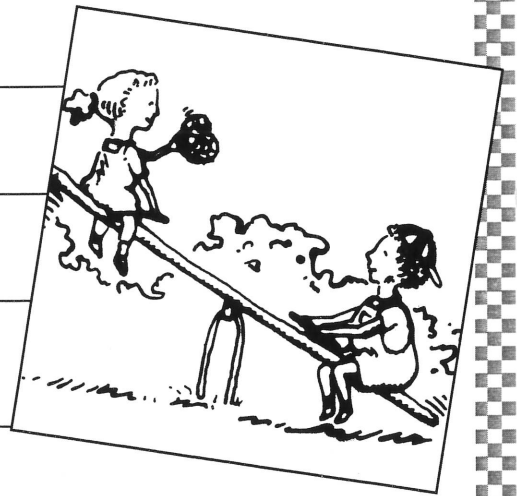
- In *Tony's Bread* by Tomie dePaola, bread helps convince a baker to let his daughter marry.
- The Biggest Sandwich Ever* by Rita Gelman and *The Giant Jam Sandwich* by John V. Lord are both about enormous sandwiches.



Bread Bread Bread

- Some families bake bread and others buy bread at a bakery or the grocery. You and your bookmate might talk about how and where your family gets bread.
- If you are going to invent a super sandwich, ask your teacher to give you a copy of the Recipe Card Activity Page.
- If you know how to make bread, talk about it.
- Check restaurant menus for different breads to add to your list.

• Your Notes/Ideas:





Chicken Little

by Steven Kellogg

In this funny version of an old folktale, it isn't that the sky is falling—it's really an acorn. Meanwhile, hungry Foxy Loxy is trying to trick the worried poultry into being his dinner.

Before we read...

- What does *poultry* mean? This word is used many times in the story. Name some poultry that people eat.
- Notice the cover and guess what the animals are thinking or feeling.

While we read...

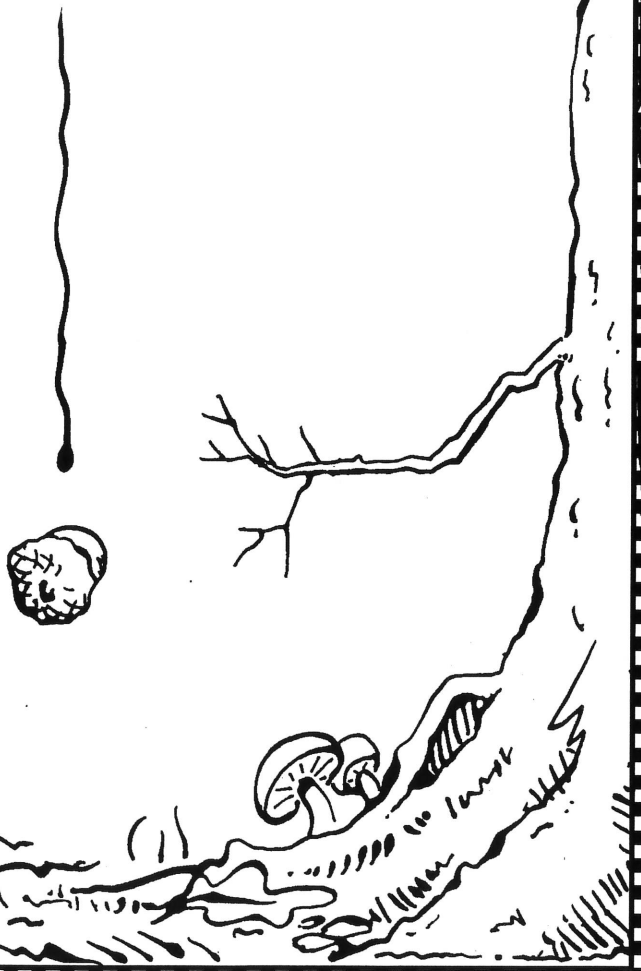
- Open the book and read the "Wanted" poster. Then talk about everything you see on the title pages—because this story starts before the words begin!
- Notice the little cloud-shaped balloons above the wolf's head. What is he always thinking about?

After we read...

- Go back and look at some pictures and talk about what is funny.
- Make a prison menu for Foxy Loxy that does not include poultry!
- Draw a picture of you and your bookmate reading this book. Put a voice balloon or thought cloud over your heads and write what you are saying or thinking.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

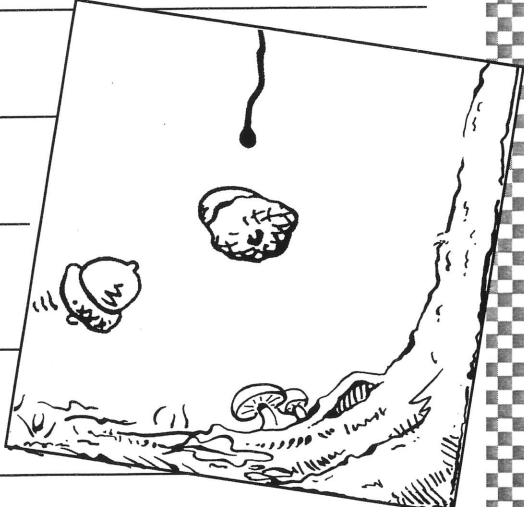
- Henny Penny* by Paul Galdone is another version of this story. Compare the pictures and the endings.
- Meet the Big, Bad Wolf in another Books on the Menu title, *Stone Soup*. He has a lot in common with Foxy Loxy!



Chicken Little

- Be sure you stop, from time to time, to talk about what is happening in the pictures. They tell as much or more of the story as the words do!
- At the end of this, Foxy Loxy is put into prison. Foxy Loxy loves to eat poultry, so try and make a prison menu for Foxy Loxy that does not include his favorite dishes. Ask your teacher for a copy of the Menu Activity Page. Try and help write words or draw food pictures with your bookmate. A younger child's "invented spelling" is okay!

• Your Notes/Ideas:



Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

by Judi Barrett

Grandpa tells a whopper of a tall tale about Chewandswallow, a town where it snows mashed potatoes, the wind blows in things like hamburgers, and the fog really is pea soup.

Before we read...

- Tell what the title makes you think about.
- Pick a common food, such as carrot sticks, applesauce, or soup. Imagine what could happen if this food fell from the sky?

While we read...

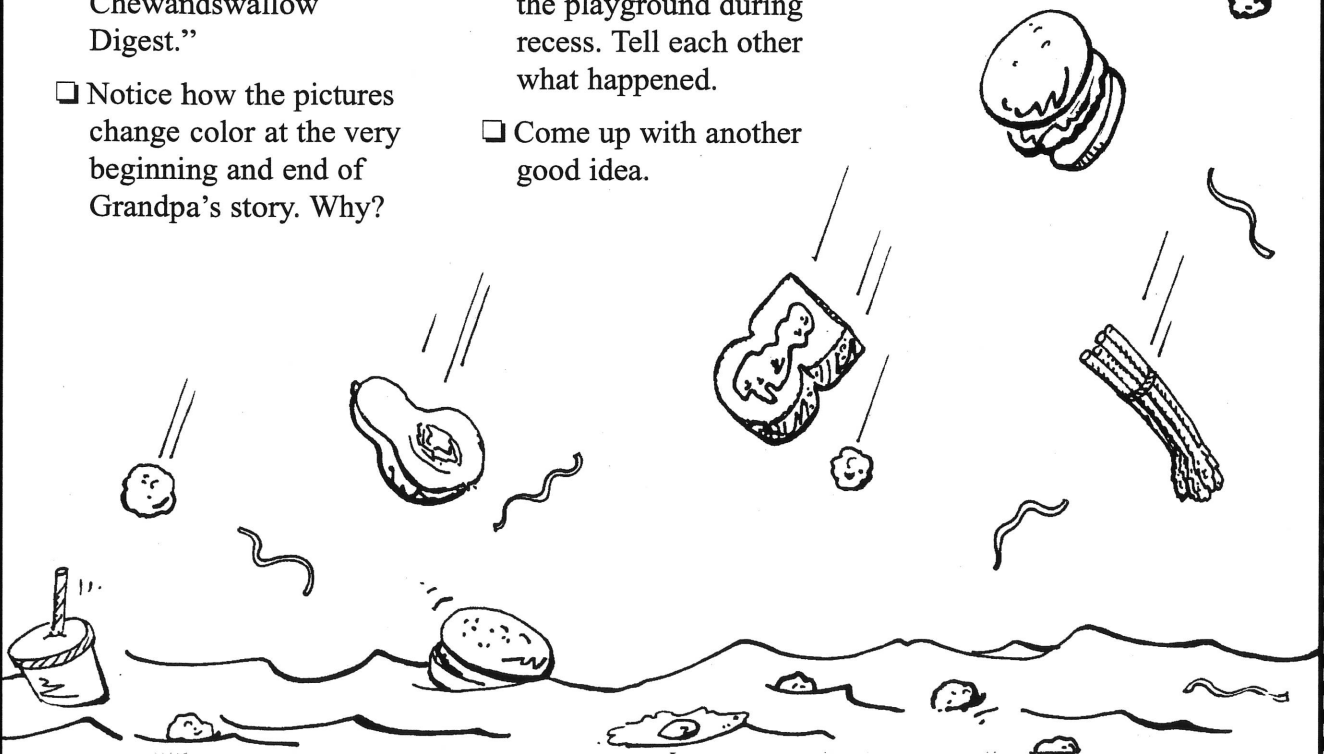
- Don't miss all the funny things to read in the pictures, like store signs, street names, and the headlines in "The Chewandswallow Digest."
- Notice how the pictures change color at the very beginning and end of Grandpa's story. Why?

After we read...

- Pretend you are weather forecasters in Chewandswallow. Make a prediction for tomorrow's food. Draw a picture of your "weather report."
- Have you heard the expression, "It's raining cats and dogs"? Make up some other weather expressions. Illustrate one of them.
- Make up a story about some food that fell on the playground during recess. Tell each other what happened.
- Come up with another good idea.

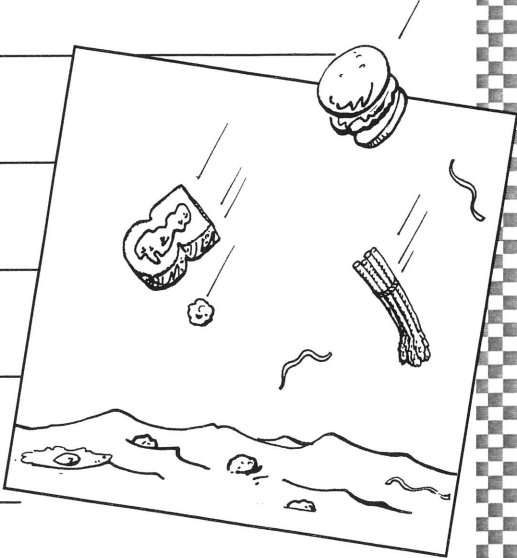
Hungry for more?

- Giant vegetables strangely appear in the sky in David Wiesner's *June 29, 1999*.
- Another story in which the sky gives food to people is *Why the Sky Is Far Away* by Mary-Joan Gerson.
- James Stevenson has written *tons* of books about another tall tale-telling Grandpa. You might like *There's Nothing to Do!*



Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

- A tall tale is a humorous story that is greatly exaggerated. You may already have heard or read some tall tales featuring characters such as Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Iva Dunit.
- Ask your teacher if you can borrow a cassette recorder so that you and your bookmate can tape yourselves forecasting the weather for Chewandswallow. Play it for some other book buddies.
- Saturday morning is pancake morning for the family in the story. You and your bookmate can talk about a special breakfast that your families eat.
- Grandpa tells this story. Ask your bookmate who tells bedtime stories in his or her family.
- Your Notes/Ideas:



The Doorbell Rang

by Pat Hutchins

Victoria and Sam try to figure out how to divide 12 cookies among their many friends who come to visit.

Before we read...

- Look at the front cover and guess what has just happened. (Hint—read the title!) Why might everyone look so worried?
- Be sure to count the kids before you start.

While we read...

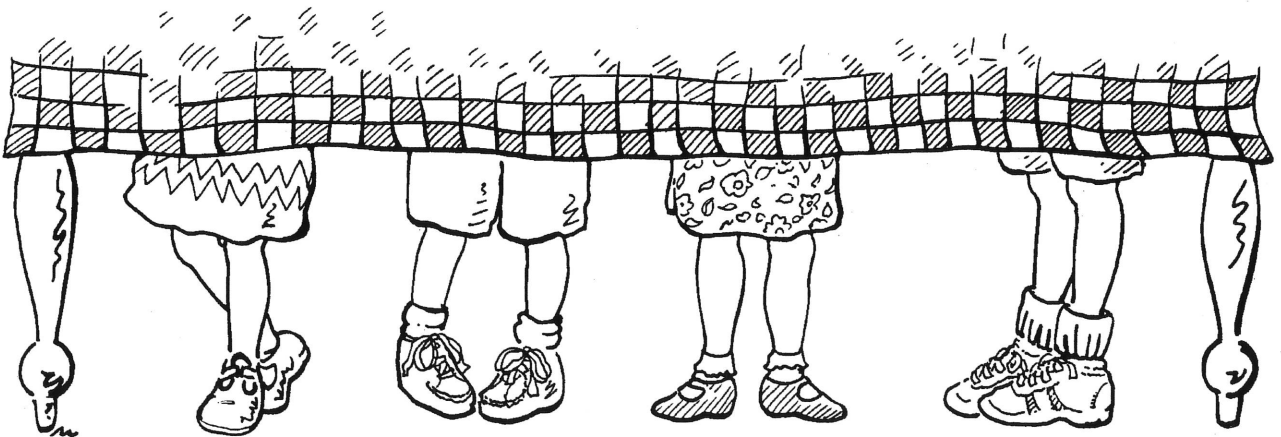
- Count the cookies on the title page. If mom divides the cookies between two kids, how many will each get? As more kids come in, notice what will happen to Victoria and Sam's share of the cookies.
- What is Mom busy doing in the pictures, and why?

After we read...

- Make "My Cookie Book." Draw or cut out from magazines pictures of your favorite cookies. Label the pictures.
- Trace a round object and cut out 12 paper cookies. Pretend dolls or stuffed animals are the characters. Reread the story and divide up the cookies until Grandma comes.
- Survey people. Ask, "What is your favorite kind of cookie?" Make a chart of what you find out.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

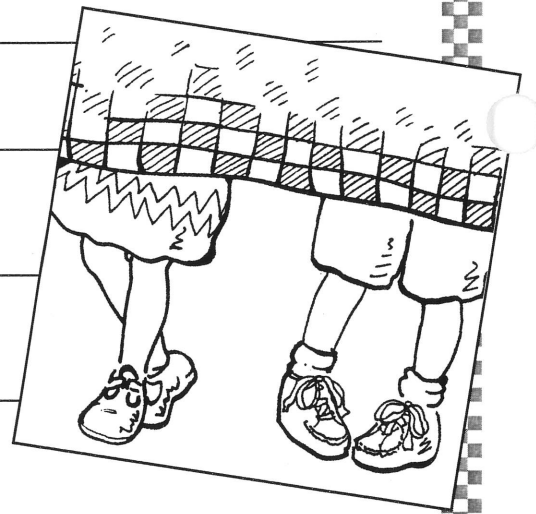
- Another grandmother saves the day by baking *Thunder Cake*, another Books on the Menu title.
- Bruce McMillan's *Eating Fractions* and Charlotte Pomerantz's *The Half Birthday* both have more fractions and food in them.



The Doorbell Rang

- Did you see the cat and the mom in the pictures? This is one of those books where there are a few other little stories going on in the pictures alongside the main story. Did your bookmate notice? Sometimes younger readers see details older readers miss!
- Young children understand division more easily if they handle things. Use items around you (blocks, checkers or paper cookies) and practice dividing as you reread the story.

• Your Notes/Ideas:



Everybody Cooks Rice

by Norah Dooley



Carrie is sent to find her brother, who is snacking his way home through the kitchens of friends in their multicultural neighborhood.

Before we read...

- How does your family cook rice?
- Notice pictures of a neighborhood on the cover and inside pages. How is your neighborhood the same or different?

While we read...

- Carrie calls her brother a *moocher*. What does it mean, and who else mooches in this story?
- Stop once in awhile to discuss the kind of rice Carrie is sampling. Would you be willing to try rice fixed this way?

After we read...

- Read one of the recipes in the back of the book. Invent a new rice dessert or dinner. Write out the recipe for your new dish.
- In an atlas or on a world map, find some of the countries Carrie's neighbors come from.
- Practice measuring rice. Using measuring cups and spoons, measure $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ cups, a tablespoon, 2 teaspoons, and other amounts. Keep a list of all the amounts you measure.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- Other picture books include recipes, too. Feast on Tomie dePaola's *Pancakes for Breakfast* and *Thunder Cake*, another Books on the Menu title.
- Read *Bread, Bread, Bread*, a Books on the Menu title, and discover that rice is not the only food that everybody cooks!
- Rice is the rhyming ingredient in *Chicken Soup with Rice* by Maurice Sendak.



Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia

by Carmen Lomas Garza

A Mexican-American artist shows interesting parts of her childhood and tells about them in both Spanish and English.

Before we read...

- Talk about the family on the cover. Guess all the family relationships. Then read page 22 to find out if your guesses are right.
- Read the author's note on page 3. Tell each other what you dream of becoming someday.

While we read...

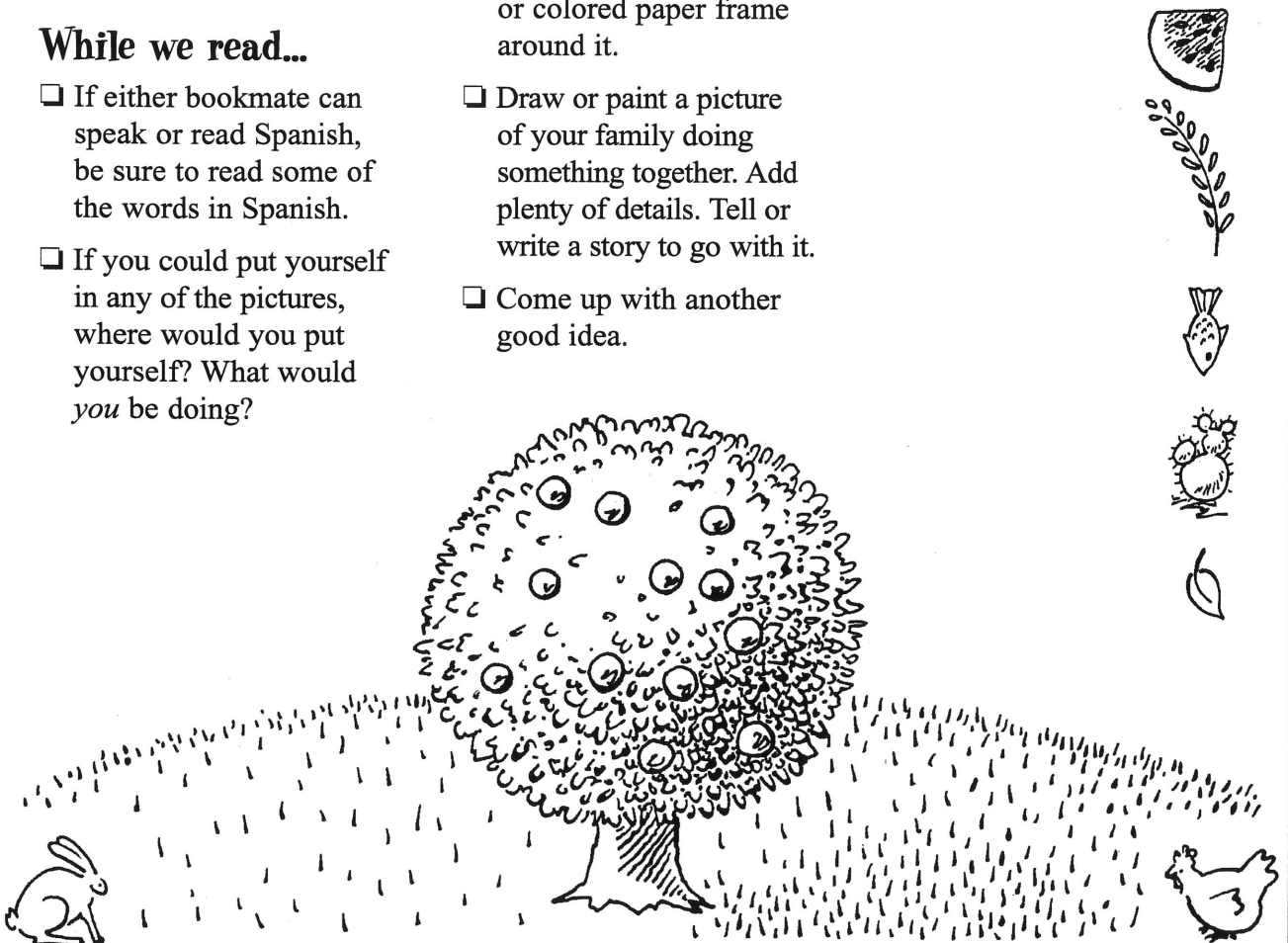
- If either bookmate can speak or read Spanish, be sure to read some of the words in Spanish.
- If you could put yourself in any of the pictures, where would you put yourself? What would you be doing?

After we read...

- Each of you list all the members of your family. Make a "family tree" diagram to show how they are related.
- Carmen Lomas Garza painted a self portrait for the back cover. Draw or paint your own self portrait. Put a cardboard or colored paper frame around it.
- Draw or paint a picture of your family doing something together. Add plenty of details. Tell or write a story to go with it.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

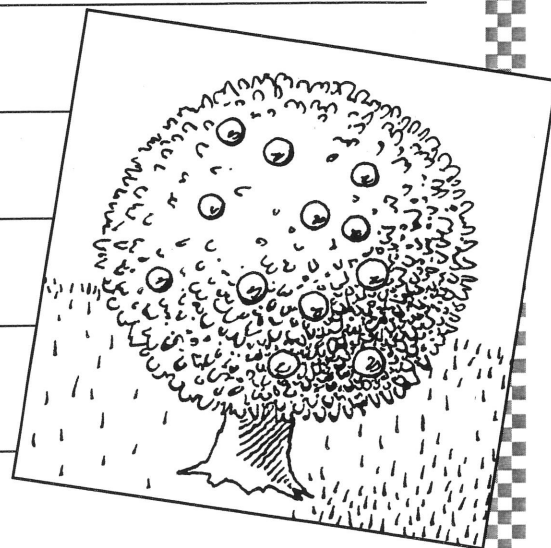
- In *Too Many Tamales*, another Books on the Menu title, a Mexican-American family makes tamales together.



Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia

- In all the pictures, you can talk about what you see before you read. And since there is no story order to the pictures, you can pick and choose as you please. Let your bookmate do most of the choosing.
- Even if you don't know any Spanish, this book can teach you some words if you look carefully. Just for fun, see how many words you might figure out, starting with the title.
- If you read the title page, you will notice that the paintings and stories are by Carmen Lomas Garza as told to Harriet Rohmer. Ms. Rohmer listened to Ms. Lomas Garza tell her stories, and then wrote them down. This is a great way for you and your bookmate to work together — you can write down your bookmate's words as he or she talks about his or her own family picture.
- Two games — a cake walk and a piñata — are the subject of two paintings in the book. But other games are often being played in the background. Point out the children playing jacks, shooting marbles, spinning tops, and drawing pictures on the sidewalk. Ask your bookmate if these are things that he or she likes to do, too.

- Your Notes/Ideas:





Feast for 10



by Cathryn Falwell

In this counting book, a family goes shopping for groceries and fixes a meal for ten hungry folks.

Before we read...

- What is a *feast* and when do families have one?
- Talk about your family meals. Who cooks the food? What do you do to help?

While we read...

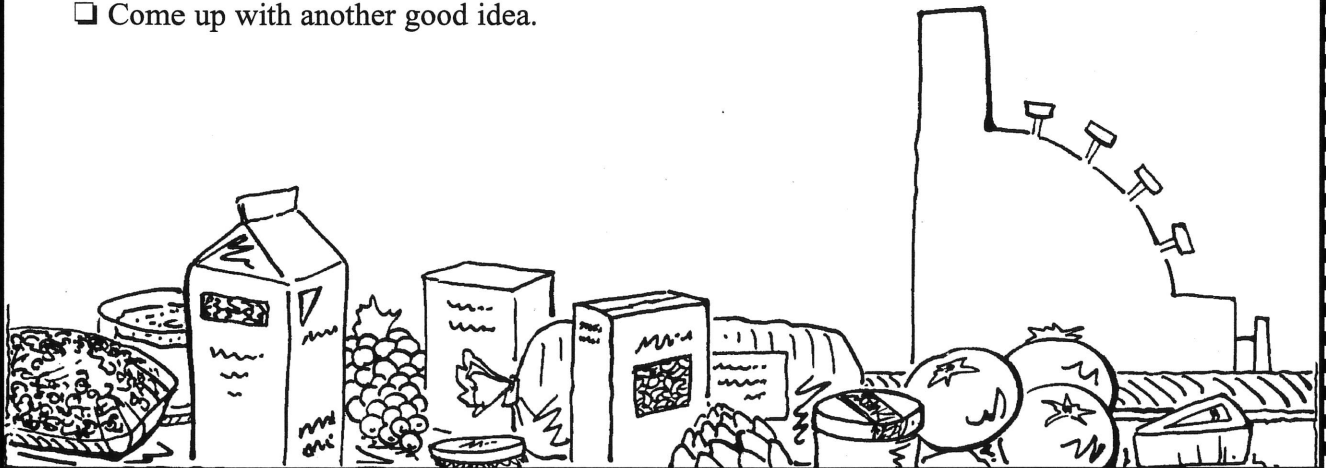
- Be sure to stop at Number 5 to notice the joke about the five kinds of beans!
- Who are the 10 members of this family?

After we read...

- What did the illustrator use to make the pictures? Collect materials to make your own picture.
- Cut out food pictures from magazines to create a feast *your* family would enjoy.
- Make a counting book. Write a number on each page, from 1 to 10. Cut out or draw food pictures to match each number.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*, another Books on the Menu title, is a story about food shopping around the world.
- Up to Ten and Down Again* by Lisa Campbell Ernst is a picnic countdown.
- Other children's book artists who use collage are Susan Roth, Molly Bang, Jeannie Baker, Lois Ehlert, Eric Carle, and Leo Lionni.



Gregory, the Terrible Eater

by Mitchell Sharmat

**Gregory, a goat, does not eat the rubbish his parents expect him to eat.
He only likes fresh fruit, vegetables, and real food.
But he and his parents make a deal.**

Before we read...

- Look at the front cover together. What is Gregory thinking about? How do you know?
- Talk about "junk food." What is it and how much of it do you eat?

While we read...

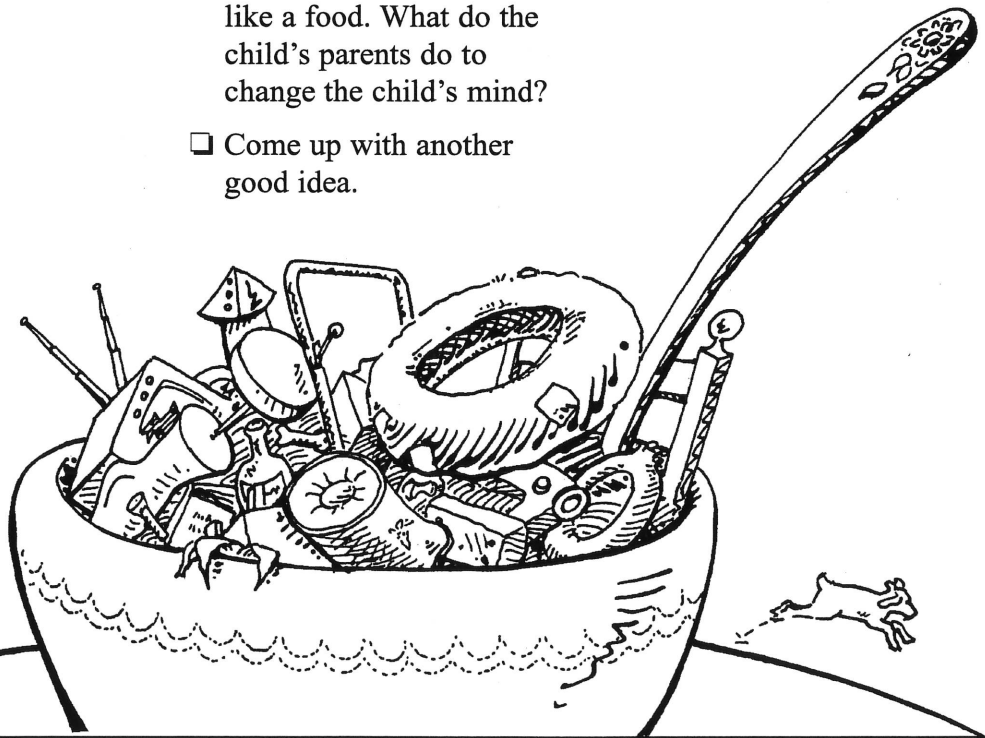
- Compare Gregory and his parents. How are they different?
- Talk about the funny ideas in this story.

After we read...

- Pretend you are the owner of Goat's Diner. Make up a menu. Include main dishes, salads, desserts, and drinks.
- Color and cut out two big Gregory shapes. Staple them together all around, but leave an open slot near his mouth. "Feed" him food pictures cut out of a magazine through the slot.
- Write or make up a story about a child who doesn't like a food. What do the child's parents do to change the child's mind?
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- You can find out what goats *really* eat in books like Seymour Simon's *Animal Fact/Animal Fable*.
- The parents of a fussy badger also worry about what she eats in *Bread and Jam for Frances*, another Books on the Menu title.





How My Parents Learned to Eat



by Allen Say

A girl tells how her American sailor father and her Japanese mother each tried to learn the other's way of eating before they were married.

Before we read...

- Look through the book at some of the pictures. Point out some Japanese details.
- Find Japan on a map or globe. What do you notice?

While we read...

- How are American and Japanese restaurants different? Look at pages 9-12.
- Notice the way Great Uncle shows how "Westerners" eat. Is this how *you* hold a fork?

After we read...

- Compare the first picture of the girl eating with the last one. What is different?
- Using two pencils or real chopsticks, try to pick up things like erasers, crayons, lumps of clay, or counting cubes. Follow the waiter's directions on page 10.
- Set a table as Americans do. Draw a map of your table setting. Use the map as a placemat!
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

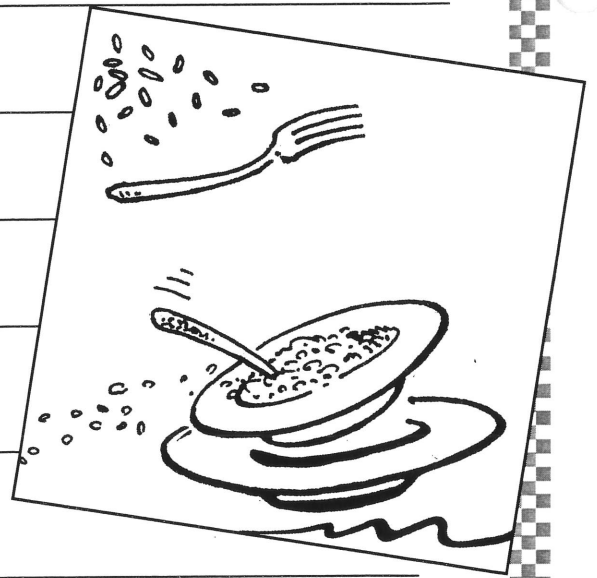
- Another book written and illustrated by Allen Say is *Grandfather's Journey*.
- Someone else learns how to use chopsticks in *Everybody Cooks Rice* another Books on the Menu title.
- In *Cleversticks* by Bernard Ashley, a boy teaches his classmates to use chopsticks.



How My Parents Learned to Eat

- You may just want to talk about eating at restaurants. Where do you go? What is your favorite neighborhood restaurant? What do you order? Sometimes a younger bookmate just wants to talk about his or her own experiences.
- Allen Say, a Japanese American, includes many details of Japanese customs in his illustrations. For example, you can point out to your bookmate that the Japanese take off their shoes before entering a room, and sleep on *futons* on the floor.
- If you are going to practice setting the table, ask to borrow plates, cups and eating utensils from the cafeteria. Make a deal with your bookmate that you will both help set the table at home this week. Create a placemat showing where each item should go when setting the table. The placemat will help your bookmate remember what goes where. (Does your school have a laminating machine? If you laminate the placemat, it can be used more than once.)

• Your Notes/Ideas:





How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World



by Marjorie Priceman

Since the market is closed, we get to travel around the world to find the ingredients for apple pie.

Before we read...

- Look at the map at the front or back of the story. What do you know about some of the countries?
- Have you ever been to another country? If you were going to take a trip, where would you like to go? What type of transportation would you take to get there?

While we read...

- Turn back and forth to the map and point out where the girl in the story is and find out how she got there.
- Just before the last page, stop, and let your bookmate guess what will happen if the market is still closed.

After we read...

- Make a list of other places you could go to get your ingredients. Maybe there are countries that were not in this story or places in town that the main character did not think of. What about a neighbor's house?
- Cut out pictures that have to do with travel. Create your favorite vacation and show how you will get there and the types of things you will do while you are there.
- Find out if anyone in your class has been to any of the countries in this book.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- Thunder Cake*, which also involves a girl gathering ingredients to make a cake, can be found in the Books on the Menu collection.
- Marjorie Priceman also illustrated *Dancin' In the Kitchen* where a family enjoys each other's company and shows how fun preparing, eating and cleaning up a meal can be.





I Need a Lunch Box



by Jeanette Caines

A boy wants a new lunch box before he starts school but his sister seems to be getting all the attention.

Before we read...

- Talk about whether you bring lunch to school or buy it in the cafeteria. If you bring lunch, what do you carry it in?
- What supplies did each of you need to buy before school started? Do older students need different supplies from younger students?

While we read...

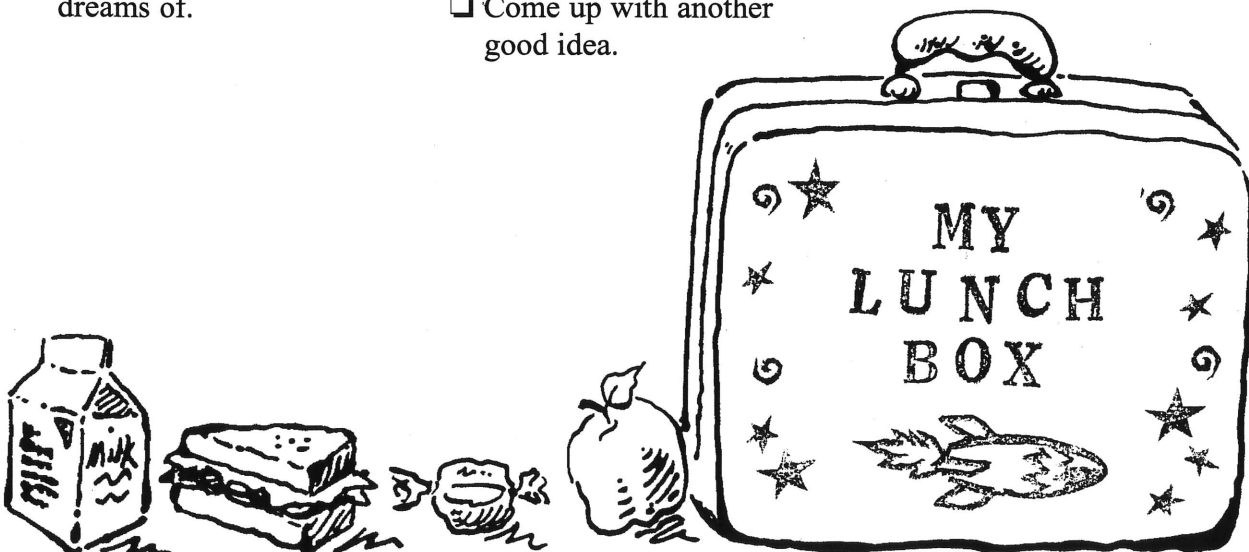
- Choose the lunch box designs you like best when you see them in the story.
- Notice the unusual lunch boxes the boy dreams of.

After we read...

- Make twin lunch bags. Use rubber stamps, stickers, or markers to decorate plain brown paper bags. Bring them to school on the same day!
- Cut out a lunch box. On one side, design a lunch box cover. On the other side, draw or paste pictures of your favorite lunch.
- Illustrator Pat Cummings used rubber stamps in some of the illustrations in this story. Use stamps to create your own picture.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- Bread and Jam for Frances* is another Books on the Menu title with a school lunch.
- Something important is missing from a lunch box in *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst.



The Little Red Hen

by Paul Galdone

In this classic folktale, the hen does all the work from raising the wheat to baking the cake while the lazy mouse, cat, and dog watch on—until the end.

Before we read...

- Look at the cover and talk about what the hen is going to do. What are those tools called?
- Talk about the chores that need to be done in your home. Who does them?

While we read...

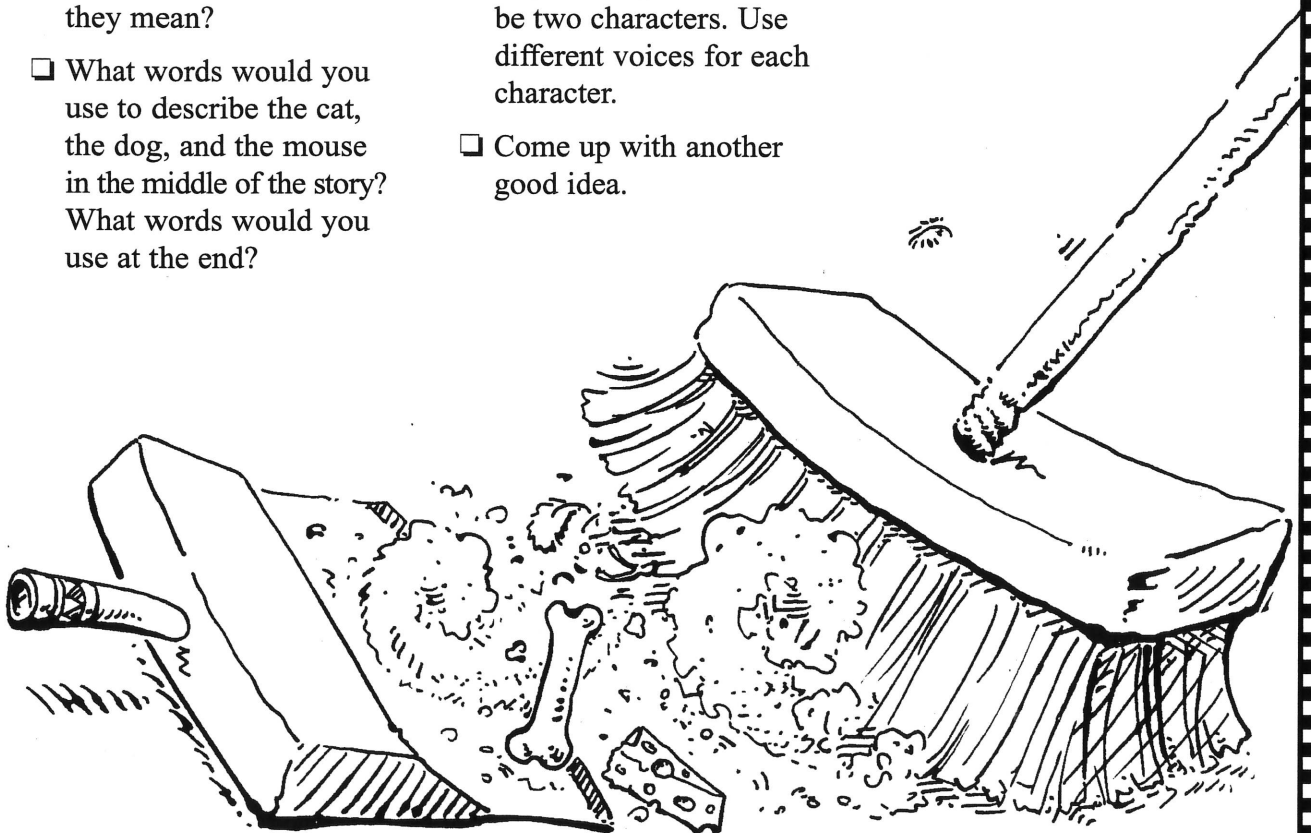
- Talk about what you see in the clouds above the animals' heads. What do they mean?
- What words would you use to describe the cat, the dog, and the mouse in the middle of the story? What words would you use at the end?

After we read...

- Write a recipe for "Little Red Hen Cake." List the ingredients and tell how to make it.
- Go back and look closely at the pictures. List all the insects and animals you see. How many are on your list?
- Looking at the pictures, tell the story together in your own words. Each of you can pretend to be two characters. Use different voices for each character.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

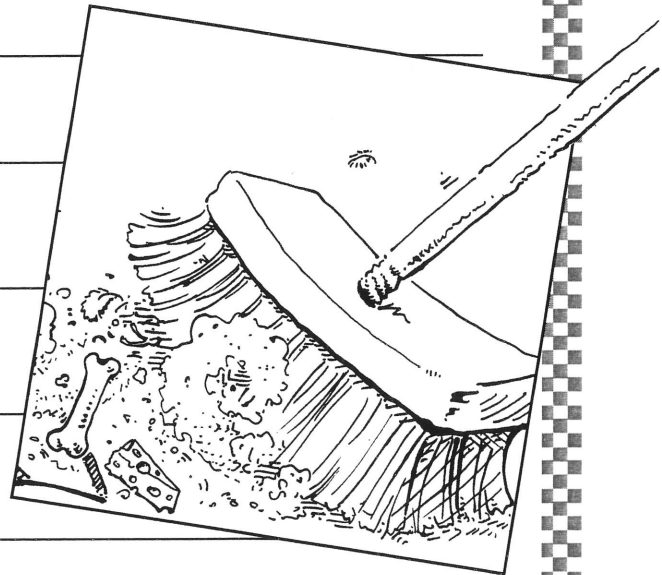
- Paul Galdone has written and illustrated many other folktales that you might like to read.
- Cake baking is part of the story in both *Benny Bakes a Cake* by Eve Rice and *Thunder Cake*, another Books on the Menu title.



The Little Red Hen

- Put your finger under the words “Not I” when you first read them. At some point, let your bookmate say the “Not I” part while you just point to the words. Use different voices for the three different animals that answer “Not I.”
- If you have already read *Chicken Little*, you can remind your bookmate that Foxy Loxy’s thoughts are shown in cloud shapes. In this story, the clouds show what the animals are dreaming about.
- If you plan to write a recipe together for Little Red Hen Cake, ask your teacher to give you a copy of the Recipe Card Activity Page. Stick a note on the page where the hen mixes the ingredients. Let your bookmate decide how much of each ingredient to include.

• Your Notes/Ideas:



Mel's Diner

by Marissa Moss

Mabel tells all about how she helps out, plays, and spends the day with friendly patrons in her family's diner.

Before we read...

- Make a list of all the different kinds of restaurants you can think of: pizzeria, fast food, Chinese, and so on. Check the ones you have eaten in.
- Notice Mabel, the little girl in the center of the cover. What is she doing? What are the others doing?

While we read...

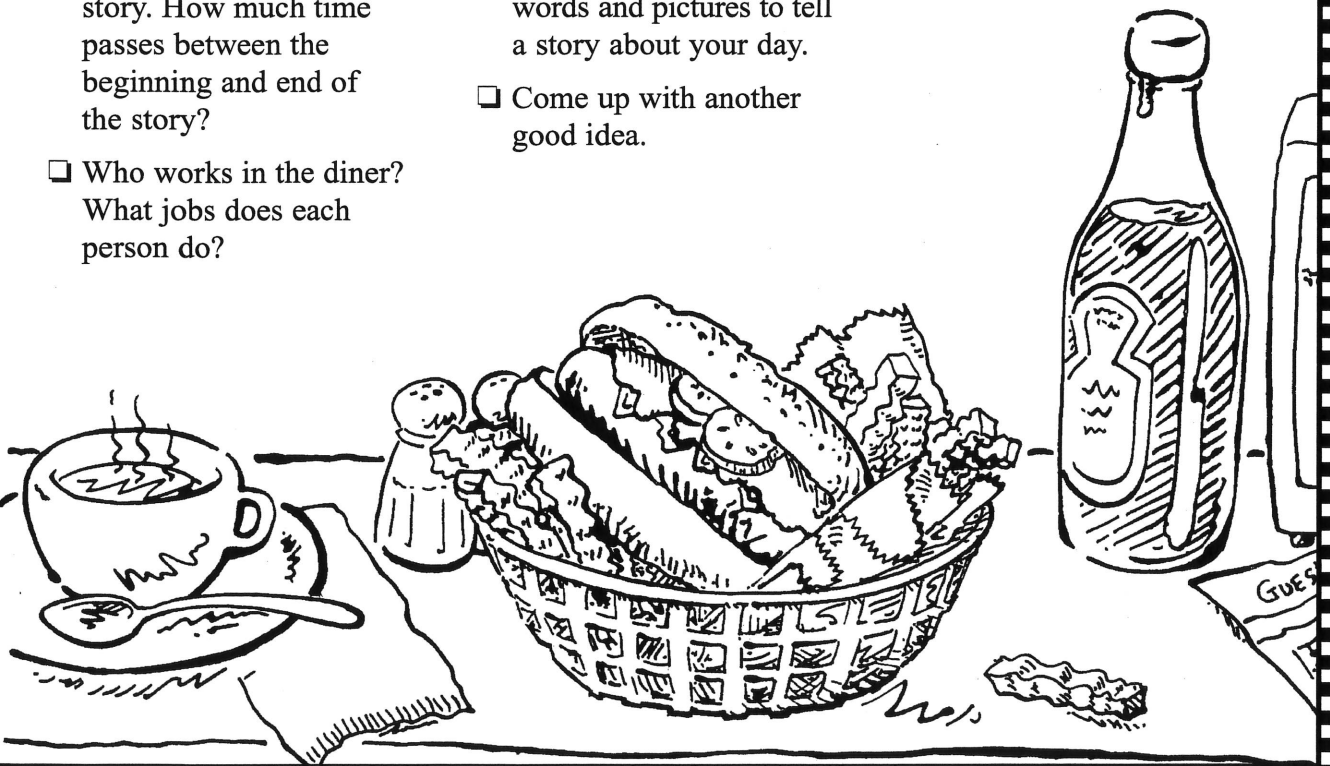
- Look for clocks in this story. How much time passes between the beginning and end of the story?
- Who works in the diner? What jobs does each person do?

After we read...

- If your family ran a diner, what would you name it? Draw pictures of your pretend diner and some of the people who come to eat there.
- Use a paper plate and a brass fastener to make a clock face with hands that move. Write in the numbers. Practice telling time on the hour, then on the half hour.
- Staple together a blank book. Like Mabel, use words and pictures to tell a story about your day.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- Read more about diners in *Margie's Diner* by Gail Gibbons and the rhyming book *In the Diner* by Christine Loomis.
- A little girl helps with the work in *My Father's Luncheonette* by Melanie Greenberg.
- Compare *Mel's Diner* to the family restaurant described in *The Paper Crane*, another Books on the Menu title.



Mel's Diner

- Mabel, the girl in this story, is cared for before and after school at her parents' place of work. Where does your bookmate go before or after school? What does he or she do there? You might suggest that reading is something fun to do after school!
- Mrs. Krupnick tells a story about when she was a little girl. Maybe a parent or grandparent has told your bookmate a childhood story that your friend would like to share with you.
- Check out the menus your class has collected to see if there are other kinds of restaurants to add to your restaurant list.

• Your Notes/Ideas:





More Spaghetti, I Say

by Rita Gelman



In this funny rhymed story, Minnie the monkey is too busy eating spaghetti to play with Freddy—and then the story turns around!

Before we read...

- Some people twirl it, others slurp it up. Talk about *your* way of eating spaghetti. Then look at the pictures to see Minnie's methods.
- Ask each other about spaghetti. Do you like it? What is your favorite spaghetti sauce?

While we read...

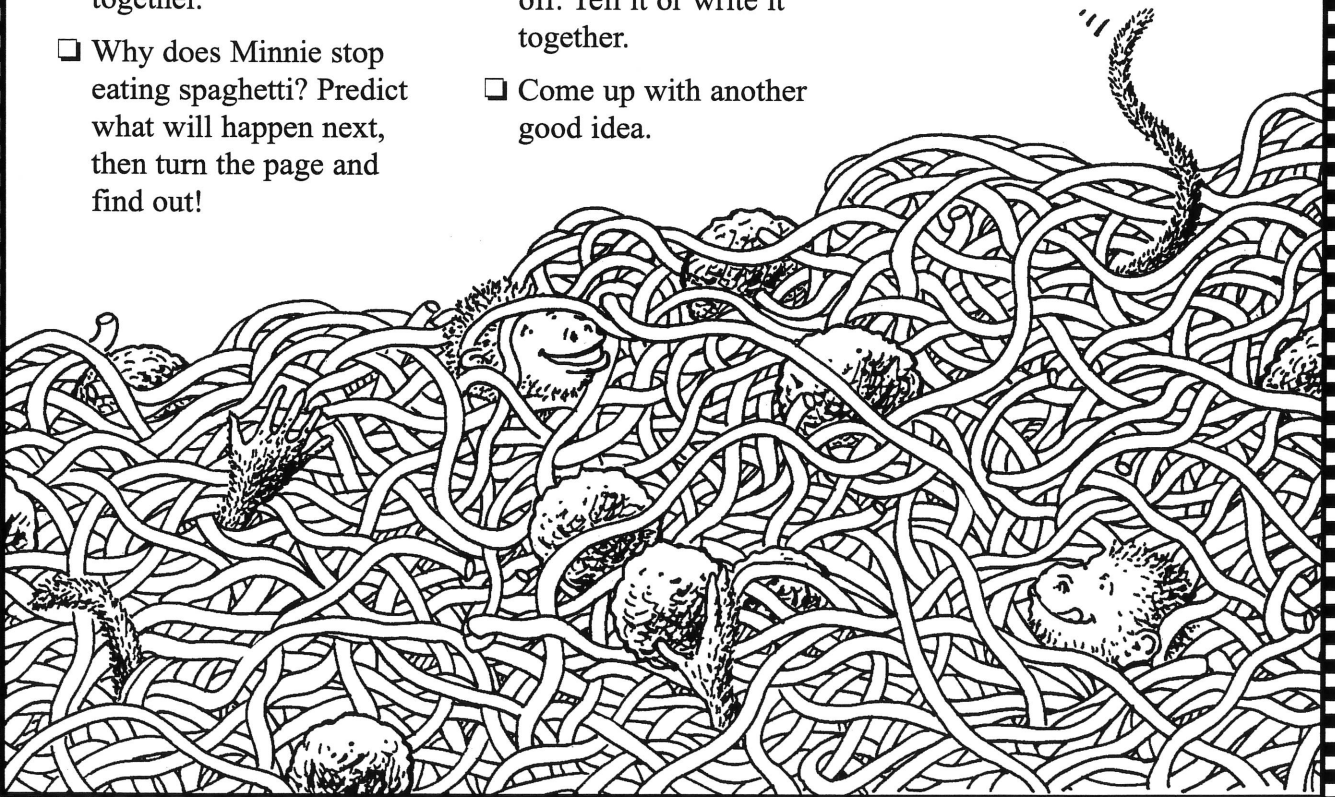
- Notice the rhyming words. Say them together.
- Why does Minnie stop eating spaghetti? Predict what will happen next, then turn the page and find out!

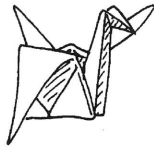
After we read...

- Make up a funny rhyming poem about another kind of food. Illustrate your poem.
- Glue uncooked noodles and shaped pasta on paper to make a picture or to "write" your name. Color over them with markers.
- Keep this story going! Make up a *sequel*—that is, a story that starts where this one leaves off. Tell it or write it together.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

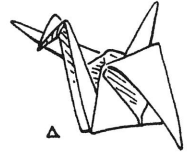
- You can meet Minnie the monkey again in another funny book by Rita Gelman, *Why Can't I Fly?*
- Two yummy spaghetti books are Anna G. Hines's *Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti* and *Strega Nona*, another Books on the Menu title.





The Paper Crane

by Molly Bang



A restaurant owner is generous to a poor stranger. In return, the stranger gives him a magical paper crane that brings joy and guests.

Before we read...

- Look through the book to see the different materials that Molly Bang used to make her illustrations. This kind of art is called *collage*.
- Talk about the pictures you see before the story starts. What do they tell you?

While we read...

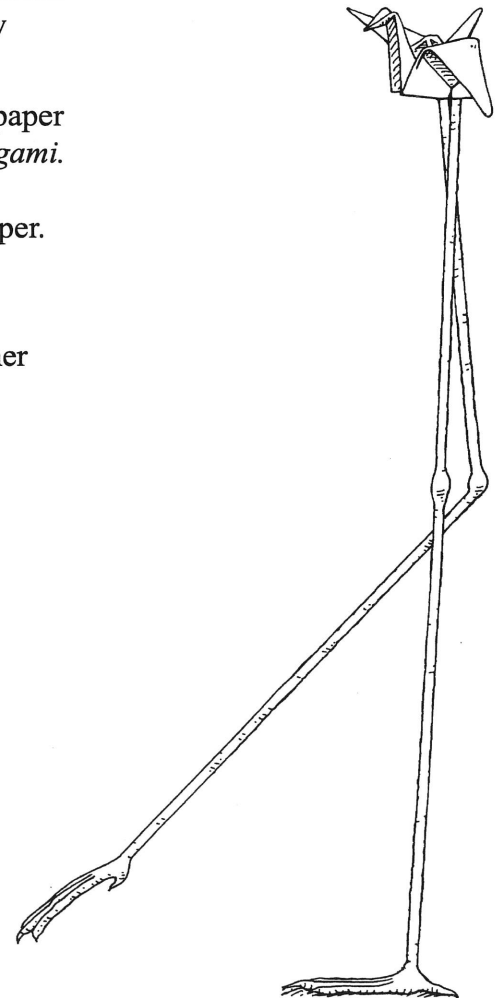
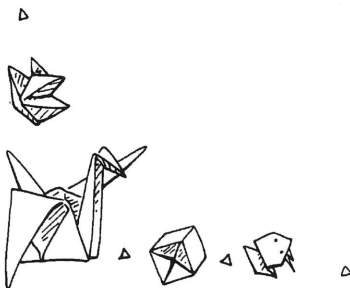
- Notice how the artist uses a different kind of art to show the paper crane and the live crane.
- How do people spread the word about the dancing crane?

After we read...

- What gifts did the stranger give to the people? Look at the last picture for one more clue.
- Collect scraps of cloth, paper, string, and other interesting materials. Use them to make a collage person—someone you know, or a story character.
- In Japan, the art of paper folding is called *origami*. Learn how to fold something out of paper. Make each other a special gift.
- Come up with another good idea.

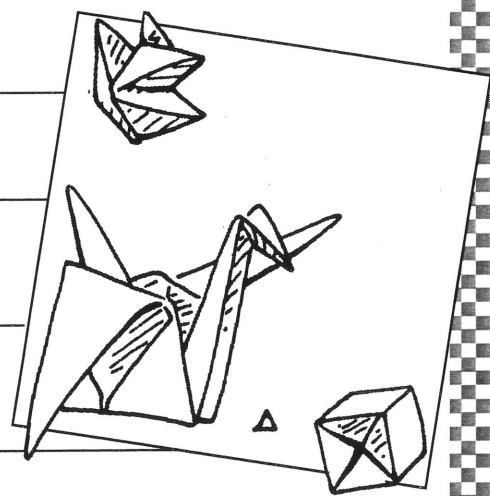
Hungry for more?

- Another paper crane comes to life in *Perfect Crane* by Anne Laurin.
- Read about other kinds of restaurants in two other Books on the Menu titles, *Mel's Diner* and *Sheep Out to Eat*.



The Paper Crane

- A *collage* is a picture or design created by adhering flat elements such as newspaper, wallpaper, printed text and illustrations, photographs, pictures from magazines, cloth, string, etc., to a flat surface.
- Cathryn Falwell, the author and illustrator of *Feast for Ten* and Eric Carle, author and illustrator of *Walter the Baker*, both Books on the Menu titles, also work in collage. In the library, you can find illustrations by other collage artists like Leo Lionni, Jeannie Baker, Ezra Jack Keats, Lois Ehlert, and Susan Roth.
- Maybe you already know how to make some things out of folded paper, such as paper airplanes and fortune tellers. If you want to learn more about origami, *Pink Paper Swans* by Virginia Kroll is a good place to start.
- Your Notes/Ideas:





Peanut Butter and Jelly



by Nadine Bernard Wescott

Use hand motions to act out
the verses about this popular sandwich.

Before we read...

- Talk about how you like a peanut butter sandwich. With or without jelly? What kind of jelly? On what kind of bread?
- Look at the first two or three pages and decide if the story is going to be silly or serious. What are your clues?

While we read...

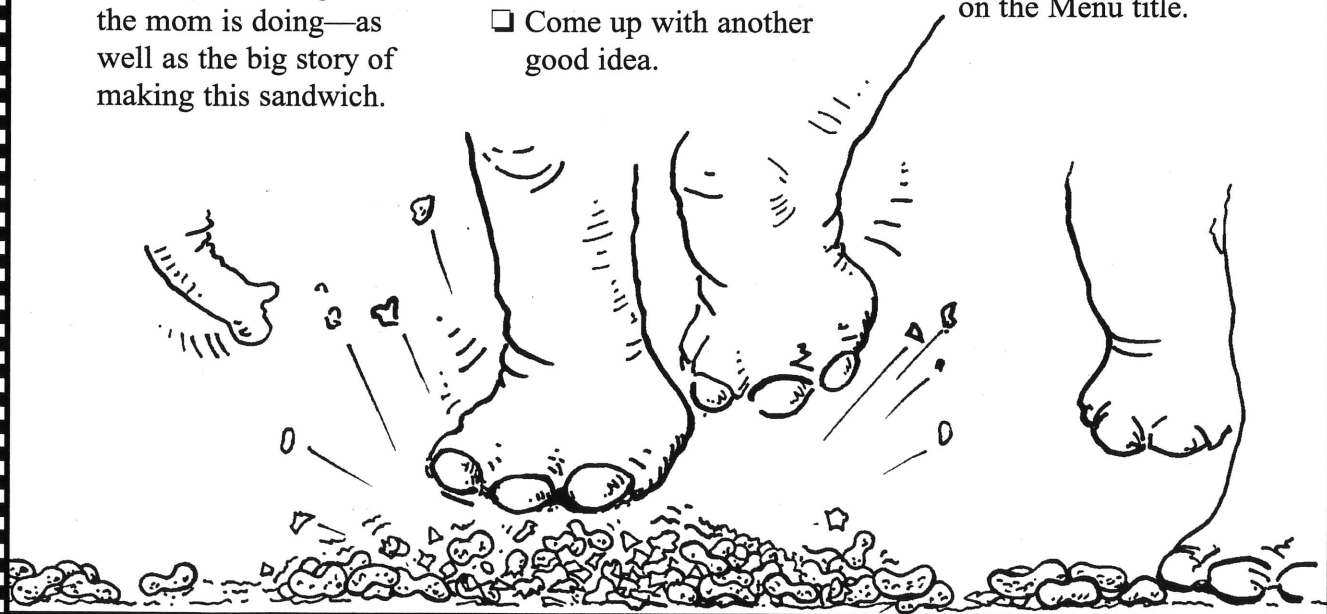
- Put your fingers on the words. See that "Peanut butter, peanut butter. Jelly, jelly" repeat.
- Notice the little stories—what the cat and dog are doing, what the mom is doing—as well as the big story of making this sandwich.

After we read...

- Check the hand motions on the last page and practice them together. Then reread or chant the rhyme along with the hand motions.
- Create a new chant about how you make spaghetti and tomato sauce, chocolate chip cookies, popcorn, or some other food.
- Survey 10 people about how they like their peanut butter sandwiches: plain, with grape jelly, with a different flavor jelly, or not at all? Share your survey results.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- In *Jam*, Margaret Mahy's very silly story, a family uses plum jam for all sorts of household jobs.
- Other books that play with food words are *Pass the Fritters, Critters* by Cheryl Chapman, *Jake Baked the Cake* by B. G. Hennessy, and *Alligators Arrived with Apples* by Crescent Dragonwagon.
- A fussy badger will only eat jam on her sandwich in *Bread and Jam for Frances*, another Books on the Menu title.



Peanut Butter and Jelly

- There are all sorts of sandwiches. If you and your bookmate start to list all of them, you could probably go on for pages! Some sandwiches are associated with different cultures. Help your bookmate think of some. For example: Greek *gyros*, Italian *subs*, and Mexican *tacos*.
- People from other countries often use bread as a scoop or pusher for food rather than as sandwich sides. You might notice this in *Bread Bread Bread*, another *Books on the Menu* title.
- This story is another good one for encouraging young students to practice reading. Since so many phrases repeat, you can read the first one, then point to the second and let your bookmate try to read it.
- Your Notes/Ideas:





Pizza Party

by Grace MacCarone



**Four children and a man make pizza from scratch
and have a great time eating it in the end.**

Before we read...

- Have you ever made pizza? Talk about parts of a pizza you can see on the cover: crust, sauce, and toppings.
- Go through the book and talk about each picture: what they are doing, what they are using. Then start again and read the words.

While we read...

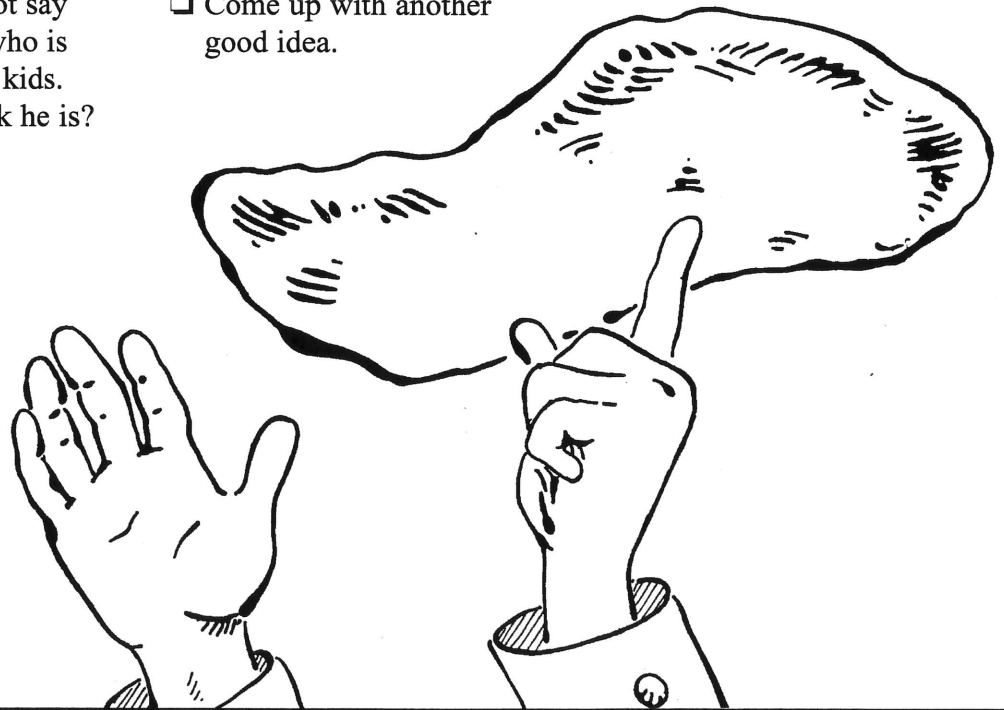
- Notice the words that rhyme. Point to the words as you read them.
- The book does not say who the man is who is cooking with the kids. Who do you think he is?

After we read...

- Draw a picture diagram of a pizza. Label the parts. Add lines to divide the pie into slices.
- What toppings might Gregory, the Terrible Eater want on his pizza? Make up toppings for story characters you know.
- Which pizza topping is the most popular with kids in your class? Make a list of toppings, then survey the class. Make a chart to show the results.
- Come up with another good idea.

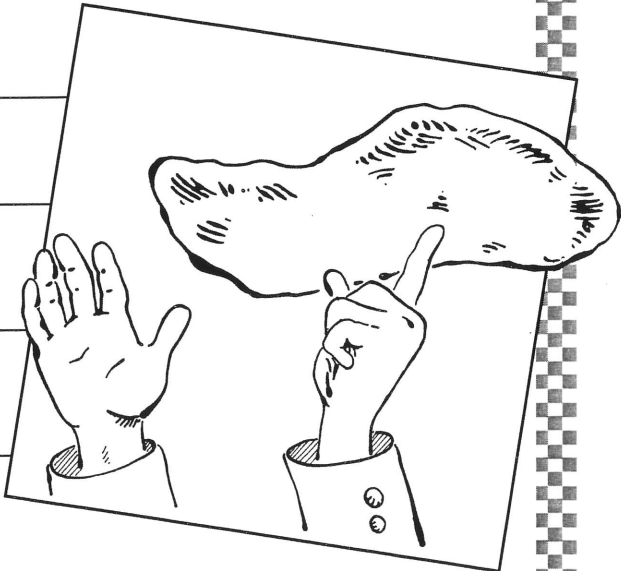
Hungry for more?

- Little Nino's Pizzeria* by Karen Barbour and *Pizza Man* by Marjorie Pillar both show other people making tasty pizza.
- Are you interested in the history of pizza? Dayal Kaur Khalsa imagines what might have happened in *How Pizza Came to Queens*, while Steven Krensky's *The Pizza Book* tells how pizza was really invented.



Pizza Party

- If you can get a menu from a real pizza restaurant, it is fun to help your younger bookmate read the menu (or ask your teacher for a copy of the “You Make It, We Bake It Kid’s Menu” reproducible). Talk about what sizes pizzas come in, the choice of toppings, and how much pizzas cost. Pretend to take each other’s orders.
- Have you or your bookmate made pizza before? Tell each other how. If you have never made pizza before, it’s easy to make pizza using pita bread or English muffins as a base, spreading on spaghetti sauce, and topping with grated mozzarella cheese.
- If you draw a pizza and divide the pie into slices, you can help your bookmate learn about fractions. Divide the pie into quarters, then eighths. Show how two eighths equal one quarter, how two quarters equal a half, and how two halves equal the whole pie.
- Your Notes/Ideas:



Sheep Out to Eat

by Nancy Shaw

In this silly story, five hungry sheep discover that a tea shop may not be a good place for them to eat.

Before we read...

- Talk about good and bad table manners. Give each other examples.
- When you read the first page, notice the seagull. Watch for him throughout the story.

While we read...

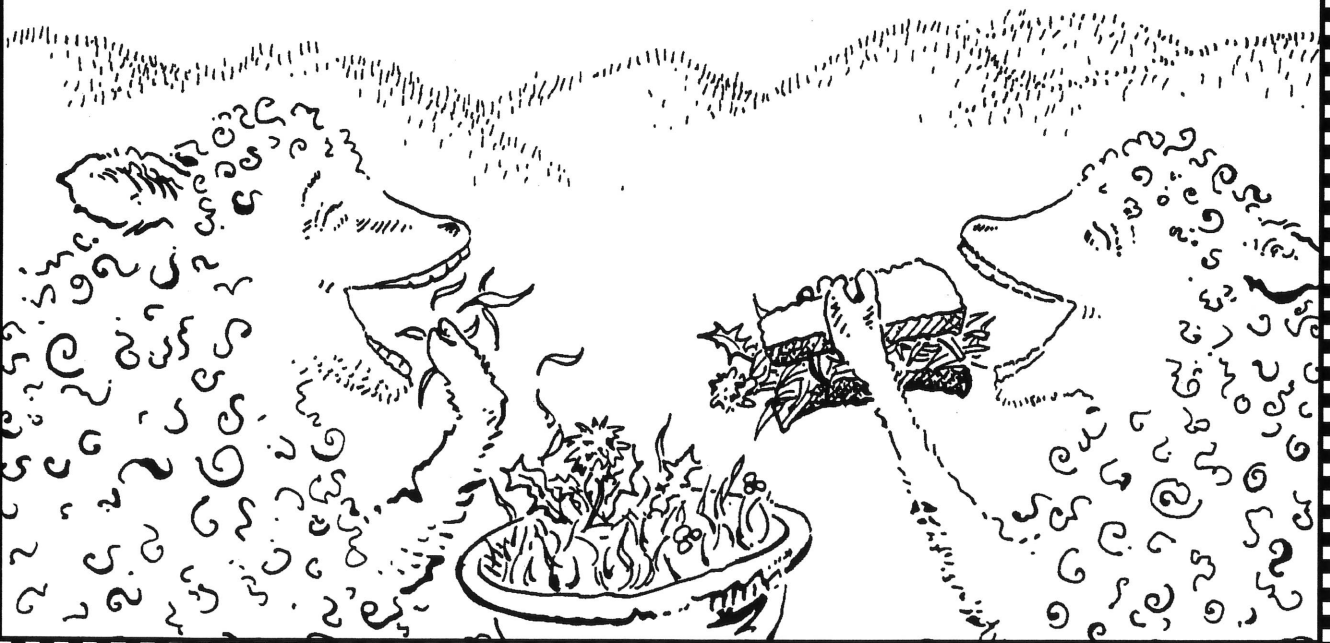
- See if you can hear some pairs of rhyming words.
- Why do you think these sheep are having such a hard time in the tea shop?

After we read:

- What is a tip, and why did the sheep leave one?
- Use stick-on notes to write what the seagull, the cat waiter, or the sheep with the feather hat is saying or thinking in each picture.
- Tell each other about a time you went to a restaurant. You can tell the true story, or you can make it silly.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- Meet the sheep in *Sheep in a Jeep*, Nancy Shaw's first book about them.
- Restaurant disasters also happen in *Pizza for Breakfast* by Maryanne Kovalski and *Frog Goes to Dinner* by Mercer Mayer.





Stone Soup



by Tony Ross

A hen saves herself from becoming the wolf's dinner—and tricks him into doing her chores—all while she is making "stone soup."

Before we read...

- Do you know any other stories about wolves (or foxes) and chickens? What usually happens to the wolf? What usually happens to the chicken?
- Notice the extra picture pages before and after the story. They tell their own little tale!

While we read...

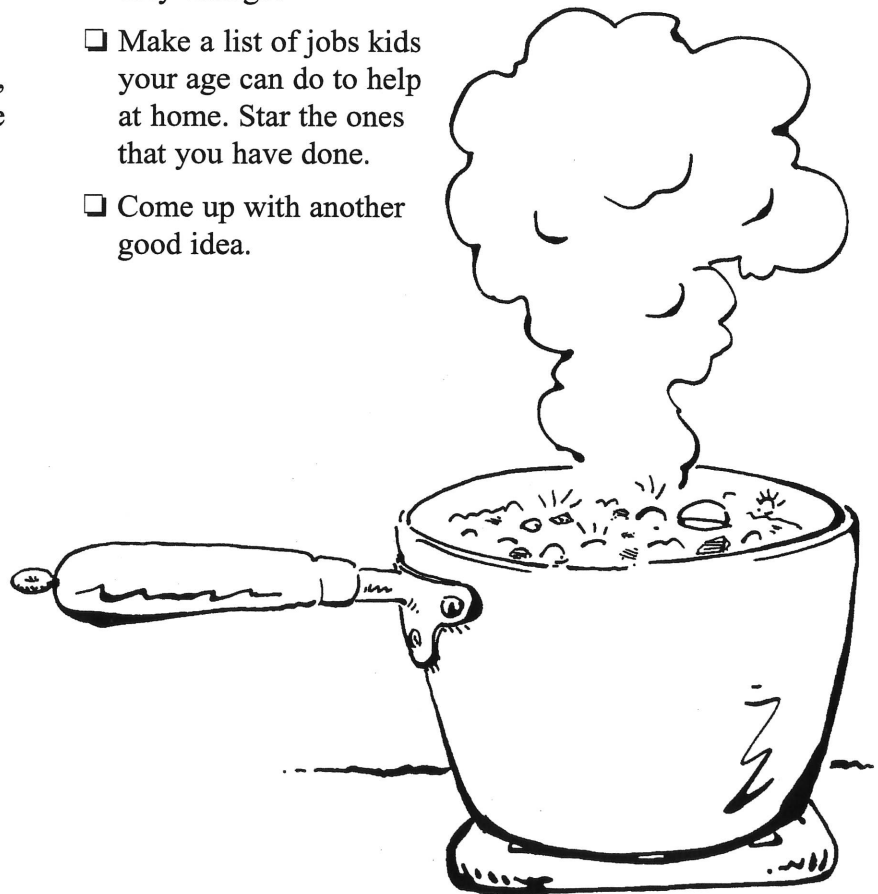
- After the hen gets the wolf to do a few chores, stop and think. Does the hen have a plan? What is it?
- Notice changes in the 'Big, Bad Wolf' as the story goes on.

After we read...

- Write the recipe for "Grandmother Hen's Delicious Stone Soup." Add any ingredients you think Mother Hen might have left out.
- Talk about your first impressions of the Big, Bad Wolf and Mother Hen. What gave you these impressions? Did they change?
- Make a list of jobs kids your age can do to help at home. Star the ones that you have done.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- Chicken Little*, another Books on the Menu title, is also about trickery.
- Many authors retell this folktale. Tony Ross's version is different than most. *Stone Soup* by Ann McGovern tells a more common version.





The Stories Julian Tells



by Ann Cameron

The first chapter is a funny story about two boys who can't resist their dad's delicious lemon pudding.

Before we read...

- Look at the several pictures in the first chapter and discuss what may be happening.
- Notice that this book is divided into different parts, called *chapters*. Count the chapters together.

While we read...

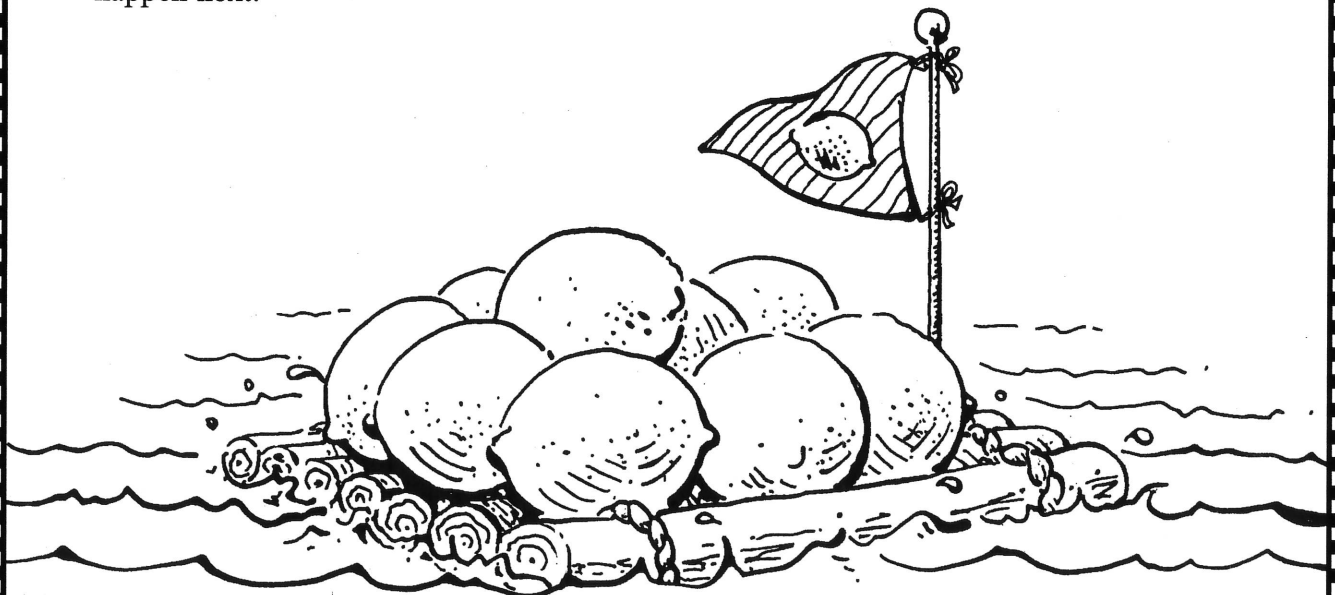
- After a few pages, tell each other what you know so far about Huey, Julian, and their father.
- Stop near the bottom of page 6, and talk about what you think will happen next.

After we read...

- What did the boys think their father meant when he said "There is going to be some beating and whipping." At first, what did you think he meant?
- Make a picture of you helping someone cook. Tell or write about what you are making.
- In your own words, tell how to make Julian's Pudding Like a Night on the Sea. Write down the recipe.
- Come up with another good idea.

Hungry for more?

- In Ann Cameron's other chapter books—for example, *The Stories Huey Tells*—Huey and Julian have more disasterous and funny experiences with food.
- Everybody Cooks Rice* is another Books on the Menu title that shows many different ways families cook and eat rice together.



The Stories Julian Tells

- Before you read this chapter book aloud, be sure you know that your bookmate is ready to enjoy a story with many words but few pictures. Some listeners become very restless if a book is above their listening level. It may be better to wait awhile before you read chapter books together.
- If the younger bookmate can read, decide how you will divide up the reading.
- Plan to read aloud together the first chapter of this book. If your bookmate wants to read another chapter, that might be your follow-up activity during the next reading meeting. Or your bookmate might want to take the book home to read.
- If you are going to write a recipe for the pudding, ask your teacher for a copy of the Recipe Card Activity Page.
- Your Notes/Ideas:

