

Kane/Miller Book Publishers



The Story of Cherry the Pig
by Utako Yamada



From Japan

About the Book

Cherry the pig is happy and content, baking – and eating – desserts every afternoon... Then one day, she hears a family of mice talking about her “incredible” apple cake. Since her apple cake *is* pretty incredible, Cherry enters the bake-off at the Harvest Festival, and the rest, as they say, is (sweet) history...

About the Author / Illustrator

Utako Yamada was born in 1963, and opened her tea house, Karel Capek, in 1987. In 2002, she opened a Karel Capek dessert shop. In between handling the selection and blending of tea, planning dessert recipes and designing packages, she is also an illustrator and translator of picture books. ***THE STORY OF CHERRY THE PIG*** is her first picture book, but has since worked on more than 20 titles.

DISCUSSION TOPICS AND QUESTIONS:**Feelings:**

How did Cherry feel when she first heard (or misheard) the mice talking about her apple cake?

How did she feel when she overheard them at the Harvest Festival saying, *"Look over there! It's the pig, the one who made that incredibly, awful cake. Why on earth would she enter it into the contest?"*

Talk about how words can be very hurtful. Is there a time when someone's words hurt your feelings? Do you think you have ever said something that hurt someone's feelings?

How did Cherry feel when she heard the announcement that she had won first prize for her apple cake?

Taste:

Talk about taste being an opinion and something that cannot be disputed. What one person thinks is delicious another may think is incredibly awful.

Are there any foods that you think are awful but someone you know thinks are delicious?

ACTIVITIES:

Name the many ingredients used for baking: flour, sugar, baking soda/powder, butter, eggs, spices, etc.

Bring in the different utensils used for baking: mixing bowl, spatula, measuring spoons, measuring cups, a mixer, beaters, cookie sheet, muffin pan, loaf pan.

Set up a baking center where children can play with the various utensils.

Apple prints:

Slice apples in half. (For traditional apple prints, slice the apple top to bottom. For "star" apple prints, slice apples through the middle.) Put a paper towel in a shallow tray. Place paint on the paper towel so it acts like a stamper. Press the sliced half into the paint and stamp onto paper.

Taste test:

Bring different apple desserts to class. Allow children to sample each. Discuss which they liked and did not like.

List all the desserts on a graph. Hand each child an apple cut-out and ask each to write his or her name on it. Each child can then glue the apple under the name of the dessert they liked best. Tally and discuss the results.

Bake apple cakes:

If you have access to an oven, enlist some parent classroom volunteers. Divide children in small groups and follow the recipe below for apple cake. Each child can have a different "job" in preparing the cake. (One person measures the flour, one measures the sugar, etc.)

Bake the cake and enjoy!

Another option is to send home the recipe and encourage parents to prepare and bake apple cake with their child.

Cherry the Pig's Winning Apple Cake

2 cups granulated sugar
 3 cups flour
 2 eggs
 1 ¼ cups light vegetable oil
 1 tsp baking soda
 2 tsp cinnamon
 1 tsp salt
 3 cups diced apples (whichever kind you like – crisp is best though)
 1 cup chopped nuts (unless you hate them)
 1 cup raisins (or dried cranberries, or dried cherries...)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and then...put everything in a big bowl and mix it up with your hands. Bake in an ungreased 9 x 13 pan for an hour, and let it cool (if you can wait) before cutting.

*Cherry doesn't share her recipes, but this one is *almost* as good!

APPLE CAKE RECIPE WORD SEARCH

Cherry's apple cake recipe includes several ingredients. Can you find the ingredients in the word search? The list of ingredients can be found below the puzzle.

A	R	I	F	W	F	S	E	J	Z	O	U	A
S	S	A	L	T	R	S	I	T	M	V	K	Y
D	R	G	O	Q	F	B	P	L	T	E	E	G
I	G	W	U	N	Y	B	Q	E	G	G	S	U
C	A	C	R	E	J	N	P	X	H	E	O	R
E	C	H	O	P	P	E	D	N	U	T	S	G
D	I	K	G	X	D	A	B	P	H	A	M	J
A	N	Z	O	S	M	R	C	F	Y	B	L	Z
P	N	C	Q	U	V	N	A	S	D	L	S	T
P	A	K	V	G	W	D	P	I	W	E	X	H
L	M	Z	B	A	K	I	N	G	S	O	D	A
E	O	D	I	R	V	F	L	E	D	I	X	M
S	N	O	P	J	R	N	B	U	Y	L	N	Y
O	H	C	C	L	A	U	V	I	E	Q	K	S

SUGAR
FLOUR
EGGS
VEGETABLE OIL
BAKING SODA

CINNAMON
SALT
DICED APPLES
CHOPPED NUTS
RAISINS



For an additional word challenge, see how many words can be found by using the letters in the name, "**apple cake**." For example, "**lake**" can be formed with a few of the letters, or "**peel**". See how many words you can list by rearranging these letters.