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**The Story of Cherry the Pig**  
**By Utako Yamada**

**After Reading:**

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 an easy recipe 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 a recipe and encourage parents to prepare and bake apple cake with their child.