



Discussion Guide for

HOW TO MAKE AN APPLE PIE AND SEE THE WORLD

Author:

Marjorie Priceman

Publisher:

Alfred A. Knopf

THEME:

Cooking may be thought of as an art, but at the heart of cooking is science.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World, narrated by Helen Mirren, tells the whimsical story of a young girl whose desire to make a simple apple pie results in an exotic global jaunt as she gathers the ingredients for her pie. Viewers will also visit LeVar in his kitchen, as he whips up some of his own goodies and gets cooking tips from chef Curtis Aikens, who uses science to unravel some of the tricks and reasoning behind everyday cooking.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discuss with the students some of their experiences with cooking, including what they like to cook, their greatest triumphs, and their worst disasters.

Invite students to share some cooking safety tips. Also discuss the importance of following directions when cooking.

In the program, the worker at the ice cream factory shows how they check cartons of ice cream to see if it really is what the manufacturer claims it is. Discuss why it is important to do this in product development. Invite students to share

experiences with purchases they have made in which the product was not what they thought it would, or should, be.

Explore the concept of literacy and the difficulties that people of all ages may have when they cannot read. Include in the discussion how reading is important to specific careers.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Obtain several cookbooks written for children and set up a display in the classroom. Invite students to browse the cookbooks to see how they are organized and what is included in a recipe, and to begin to acquire a "cooking vocabulary." Start a list of cooking terms and have students define them. (Several are mentioned in the video, such as sauté, dice, simmer, seasoning, and others.) Add other words to the list as students encounter them.

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World contains many details that are important to understanding the story. Obtain a copy of the book and make a chart of these story details. For example, the chart might have these headings: Where did she go? How did she get there? What did she get while she was there? As students are supplying details for the chart, encourage them to recall the order in which the story events occurred.

On maps of the world, have students trace the path that the girl in the story took as she gathered the ingredients for apple pie. Her home is not identified, so students will need to think of a starting place, perhaps their own hometown. Number the places on the map in the order of her visits. To make their maps more interesting, they might want to add pictures of the modes of transportation she used from place to place. Their world maps could be used as a vehicle for retelling the story.

Have students invent a new flavor of ice cream and create an advertisement for it that will persuade people to try it.

Some lucky children in the video had the job of ice cream taster. Have students write letters applying for such a job. In their letters, they should include their qualifications, experience, and a reason why they should get the job.

Enlist the aid of some parent volunteers to acquire some donations and help with a frozen yogurt tasting party. Have the students develop a rating form (e.g., giving a particularly tasty flavor, "3 scoops"; a good flavor, "2 scoops"; an OK flavor, "1 scoop"; and "send it back" for a flavor they don't like). Compile the results to see which flavors students like best.

As a class, make a cookbook of favorite recipes using apples. Feature student-written recipes in the cookbook and solicit some recipes from parents to use as fillers." Have students add outline drawings to their recipes. Duplicate enough copies for everyone in the class, and have students color the drawings. Send the cookbooks home.

Brainstorm a list of different kinds of fruits and vegetables and classify the vegetables into groups as roots, leaves, flowers, stalks, seeds, etc.

Children are often told to eat something because "it is good for them." Have students research why foods are healthy. Use the basic food groups as the basis for the research and pose the question for a food group as a whole, such as "Why are breads and pasta important for our health?" The Reading Rainbow review books for this episode, What Food Is This? by Rosmarie Hausherr and The Edible Pyramid by Loreen Leedy, will be useful in this activity.

Invite a chef into the classroom to talk about the different responsibilities associated with her/his work.

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RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:

- Liang and the Magic Paintbrush
- Little Nino's Pizzeria
- Mrs. Katz and Tush
- Robbery at the Diamond Dog Diner
- The Patchwork Quilt
- Many other programs highlight foods and food preparation.

RELATED THEMES:

- nutrition and healthy eating
- kitchen chemistry
- cooking safety
- learning to read

About The Author:

Marjorie Priceman is the illustrator of several books for children and the author of Rachel Fister's Blister. Her playful watercolour illustrations earned a Caldecott Honor Book for Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin, a Reading Rainbow feature book She resides in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:

THE KIDS' AROUND THE WORLD COOKBOOK by Deri Robins, illus. by Charlotte Stowell (Kingfisher)

WHAT FOOD IS THIS? by Rosmarie Hausherr (Scholastic)

THE EDIBLE PYRAMID: GOOD EATING EVERY DAY by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

THIS IS THE WAY WE EAT OUR LUNCH by Edith Baer, illus. by Steve Björkman (Scholastic)

THE WEDNESDAY SURPRISE by Eve Bunting, illus. by Donald Carrick (Clarion)

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS YOU CAN EAT by Vicki Cobb, illus. by David Cain (HarperCollins)

PEAS AND HONEY: RECIPES FOR KIDS (WITH A PINCH OF POETRY) by Kimberly Colen, ill us. by Mandy Victor (Boyd's Mills)

SCIENCE IN FOOD by George and Shirley Coulter (Rourke)

SCIENCE CHEF by Joan D'Amico and Karen E. Drummond (John Wiley)

A CHEF by Douglas Florian (Greenwillow)

PAPA'S STORIES by Dolores Johnson (Macmillan)

WHERE FOOD COMES FROM by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, photos by William Muñoz (Holiday House)

NUTRITION: WHAT'S IN THE FOOD WE EAT by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, photos by William Muñoz (Holiday House)

Programs Details

Length:

30 minutes

Subject Areas:

Special Needs

Audience Levels:

Ages 6 - 11

Order Number:

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