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Thunder Cake

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Book Language

Front Cover Back Cover
Spine Page
Title Author
Illustrator Publisher
Non Fiction Fiction

Vocabulary

Sultry, Damp, Drift, Shutter,
Horizon, Penned, Scurried,
Recipe, Ingredients, Luscious,
Churned, Poured, Rumbled,
Beamed, Glistening



Take Our Survey

Discovering Characters

Introduce the characters from the story to your child. Share what you notice.

Before Reading Setting the Stage

Thunder Cake follows the story of a little girl who is frightened by an oncoming thunderstorm, and her grandmother who has a recipe to help cure her fears. Read along as we discover what they create together before the storm hits.

While Reading Exploring the Story

While reading the story, pause and ask your child how they feel about thunderstorms. Are they loud? Cool? Scary? Thinking about things that make us scared can help us feel more empathy for others who are scared. How would they help the little girl feel less scared?

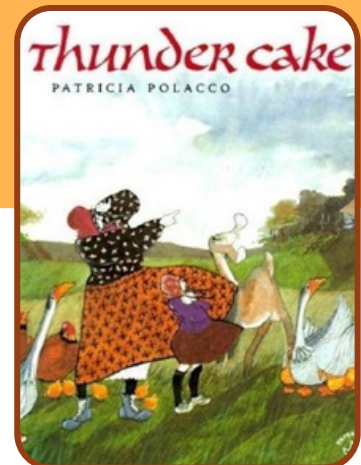
After Reading Reflection

While reflecting on the story with your child, ask open ended questions about events in the story. Allow your child to answer and then you take a turn to speak. Turn-taking is a foundation for speech and language development.

Conversation Serve and Return

You may have heard the terms Serve and Return. This is the art of back and forth communication with your child.

- Notice what your child is interested in. Share the child's focus and attention. Try looking at the same item in the book.
- Return the serve by supporting and encouraging. Point at the picture and ask, "What else do you see?"
- Give it a name. "Oh you see a chicken."
- Take turns.....and wait! Keep the interaction going back and forth. With infants, this can be as simple as responding to a gesture or glance.



Outdoor Experience

Weather can be calming, exciting, even scary. Take a few minutes each day to look at the sky and talk about different weather.

Music and Movement

Fingerplays are important for kids because it boosts oral language skills. When singing songs, your child is expanding their oral language skills by “working out” their mouth muscles. When a child engages with fingerplay they have to create images in their mind to accompany the songs.

Little Raindrops Falling Down

Little raindrops falling down, falling down, falling down. Little raindrops falling down, falling to the ground.
Bigger raindrops falling down, falling down, falling down. Bigger raindrops falling down, falling to the ground.
Giant raindrops falling down, falling down, falling down. Giant raindrops falling down, falling to the ground.
Sung to the tune of London Bridge is Falling Down: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7jmu9IDmgU&t>

S.T.E.M.

Recipes are a great way to learn about math! In our story, grandma sends her granddaughter running around to collect items for her cake recipe. Baking with your child builds their skills in math, reading, and following directions. You can create a make-believe cake out of pretend ingredients. Together write down some items on your ingredient list, and have your child do a scavenger hunt for them. A silly example might be: one sock, one book, two crayons and a pillow. Stack them up to make a “cake”. Creating recipes together helps children learn to plan and problem-solve, and might even get them interested in baking for real!

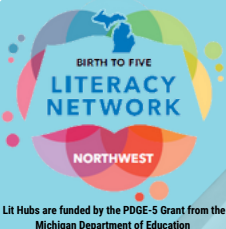
Social Emotional

Circle of Security is the idea that when children know they have a trusting, safe and nurturing relationship with an adult they will feel more confident to explore their surroundings and develop greater self-esteem. A secure attachment to at least one adult creates the foundation for healthy social-emotional development. Does your child have a safe cozy spot to go to when they are scared? Creating a comforting nook can help your child with their fears and let them know they have a safe retreat. What are other things that could make them feel safe?

What's That?

What is a Babushka?

In our story, the grandmother is also called Babushka. Babushka is the Russian word for grandmother or elderly woman. In Spanish, grandmother is Abuela, and in Yiddish she is Bubbe. What are other names for grandmothers? What do you call your grandmother?



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