

The Biggest Cake in the World

by Joy Cowley

illustrated by Diane Perham



Book Summary

This narrative story follows a recipe for the biggest cake in the world – from purchasing the ingredients to cutting it up to share.

Features of the Book

- The use of recipe language.
- The distinct sequence of events needed for a recipe.
- The repetition at the end of each sentence – “the biggest cake in the world.”
- The variety of vehicles and safety equipment.
- Natural language – “Mrs. Delicious got.”
- The “est” word ending – “biggest.”
- The “tr” blend – “truck,” “tractor,” and “trailer.”
- The high-frequency words – “got,” “of,” and “for.”
- The speech bubbles and different languages on the final page.

Purpose

The Biggest Cake in the World can be used in a guided reading setting to introduce and reinforce the following skills and strategies:

- S** reading an increasing range of high-frequency words in context;
- S** predicting outcomes from illustrations;
- S** discussing the motives of specific characters;
- S** selecting information from the story for a specific purpose.

Introducing the text

The cover shows the mother (Mrs. Delicious) reading a cookbook with her children.

- *Why do you think the book is so big?*
- *What is the book called?*
- *What do you think she might be going to cook?*

Read the title and the names of the author and illustrator to the group.

Reading the text

- S** Reading an increasing range of high-frequency words in context.

- S** Predicting outcomes from illustrations.

- S** Discussing the motives of specific characters.

Look at the title page.

- *What do you need to bake a cake?*
- *What are these children using?*

Page 2

- *What is on the back of the truck?*
- *Why does Mrs. Delicious need that much flour?*

Pages 3 to 5 – Focus on the ingredients and the quantity!

- *Where are they taking all of these things?*
- *What does Mrs. Delicious need to do now?*

Pages 6 and 7 – Discuss the difference between cooking this cake and cooking an ordinary cake.

- *How long will it take?*
- *How is Mrs. Delicious being careful?*

Pages 8 and 9 – Discuss why Mrs. Delicious would need a tractor and a chain saw.

- *Why are the children covering their ears?*
- *What special clothes is Mrs. Delicious wearing?*

Pages 10 to 12

- *Who is going to eat the cake?*

Note the speech bubbles on page 12.

Children now read the book independently.

Revisiting the text

Write the “tr” blend on the board.


- *What sound does this make?*
- *Mrs. Delicious uses three things that begin with “tr” to help her. Can you find them?*


List other words that begin with “tr.”

- *What is the opposite of “biggest”? What other words do you know that end with “est”?*

Following Up

- S** Selecting information from the story for a specific purpose.

 The children could use the story format to write a recipe for “The Smallest Cake in the World.”

 The children could write out the invitation that Mrs. Delicious sent to her neighbors, asking them to share the cake.

- B** Complete the blackline master opposite.