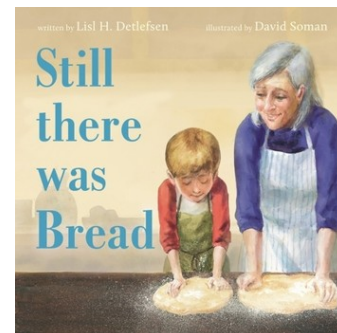


Still There Was Bread

OVERVIEW: In the book *Still There Was Bread* by Lisl H. Detlefsen, a young boy is introduced to his family's tradition of baking rolls. While learning the ingredients and how to knead the dough, the boy learns about his family's history through several generations.



GRADES: 3-5

OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to:

- Listen to a reading of the book to find answers to comprehension questions
- Describe the basic ingredients of bread
- Define the word *tradition and generation*
- Write a paragraph about a personal family tradition involving a specific food or meal

MATERIALS:

- The book *Still There Was Bread* by Lisl H. Detlefsen
- A copy of the *Listen for the Answers* worksheet for each student
- A copy of the *Find Your Food Tradition* worksheet for each student

VOCABULARY

Tradition: a special way of doing something that gets passed down from older people to younger people over many years. It is like a thread connecting the past, present, and future, helping families and communities share memories, celebrate holidays, and feel a sense of belonging.

Generation: a group of people born around the same time who share a specific span of history, making them about the same age. In a family, it describes the steps on a family tree, like grandparents, parents, and kids.

Yeast: a tiny, living, single-celled organism—part of the fungus family—that eats sugar, burps out gas, and makes bread dough rise into something light and fluffy.

INTRODUCTION:

In the book *Still There Was Bread*, a young boy is introduced to his family's tradition of baking "Nana rolls" by his grandmother. While he is learning how to make the rolls, the grandmother tells the boy stories about how different generations of his family made the rolls and the hardships they experienced at the time: the Great Depression, the polio quarantine, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

PROCEDURE:

Give each student a *Listen for the Answers* sheet. Read the questions aloud and ask students to take notes about the answers to the questions while listening to the book. Read the book *Still There Was Bread*. Give students time to answer the book questions in complete sentences.

Student share and discuss their answers. Ask them, what is flour made of? (wheat or another type of grain such as rye) Ask them: what is yeast? Yeast is a tiny, living, single-celled organism—part of the fungus family—that eats sugar, burps out gas, and makes bread dough rise into something light and fluffy.

Explain to students that the making of Nana rolls was a *tradition* in Little Pickle's family, a special way of doing something that gets passed down from older people to younger people. The recipe for Nana rolls was passed down from one generation to another. Discuss with students the meaning of *tradition* and *generation*.

Pass out the *Find Your Food Tradition* worksheet. Tell students that tomorrow they will be asked to write a paragraph about a tradition in their own family that involves food. It does not have to be a tradition spanning many generations, it can involve just one or two. It can be a holiday meal, a recipe used for a special occasion, or a seasonal dish. Ask students to take the *Find Your Food Tradition* worksheet home and talk to a family member about a food tradition. Tell students to take notes on the worksheet.

The next day, give students time to write their food tradition pieces. If a student has trouble coming up with a family food tradition, you can ask that student to write about how they did things differently during the Covid pandemic. Give students a chance to share their traditions with the whole class or in small groups.

EVALUATION:

Completed *Listen for the Answers* and *Find Your Food Tradition* worksheets and completed paragraph(s) about the student's food tradition

NEW JERSEY LEARNING STANDARDS

English Language Arts:

Grade 3: RI.CR.3.1 W.NW.3.3 W.WP.3.4 SL.PE.3.1 SL.PI.3.4

Grade 4: RI.CR.4.1 W.NW.4.3 W.WP.4.4 SL.PE.4.1 SL.PE.4.4

Grade 5: RL.CI,5.1 RI.AA.5.7 W.NW.5.3 W.WP.5.4 SL.PE.5.1

*Social Studies Grades 3-5: 6.1.5.GeoHE.2, 6.1.5.EconEM.1, 2; 6.1.5.EconNE.4
5.1.5.EconGE.2*

Name _____

Still There Was Bread

Listen for the Answers

What are the ingredients Little Pickle and his Nana used for their special bread?

Do you know what flour is made of? (you can guess, it's not in the book.)

Do you know what yeast is? (You can guess, it's not in the book.)

What was different about the way Nana's grandmother made the bread?

What were the hard times Nana's family experienced?

The author mentions a difficult time not too long ago. You experienced this difficult time also. What was it? How did you have to do things differently then?

Do you think the Covid-19 pandemic is something you will tell your children or grandchildren about? Why or why not?

Still There Was Bread - Listen for the Answers Answer Key

What are the ingredients Little Pickle and his Nana used for their special bread?

Eggs, milk, flour, oil, sugar, salt, yeast, water

Do you know what is flour made of? (You can guess, it's not in the book.)

Wheat or another grain

Do you know what yeast is? (You can guess, it's not in the book.)

A tiny, living, single-celled organism—part of the fungus family—that eats sugar and burps out carbon dioxide gas, which makes bread dough rise into something light and fluffy.

What was different about the way Nana's grandmother made the bread?

She had to collect eggs from the chicken coop and milk a cow.

She used a wood-burning stove instead of an electric stove.

She mixed the bread dough with a wooden spoon instead of an electric mixer.

What were the hard times Nana's family experienced?

When Nana's mother (Little Pickle's great grandmother) was a little girl, her family lived through the Great Depression, when she only had one dress and no shoes.

When Nana was a baby, her family was quarantined because she and her daddy had a disease called polio.

The author mentions a difficult time not too long ago. You experienced this difficult time also. What was it? How did you have to do things differently then?

The Covid-19 pandemic. Various answers: couldn't go to school, had to have lessons via computer; had to wear a mask, couldn't play or visit with friends, etc.

Do you think the Covid-19 pandemic is something you will tell your children or grandchildren about? Why or why not?