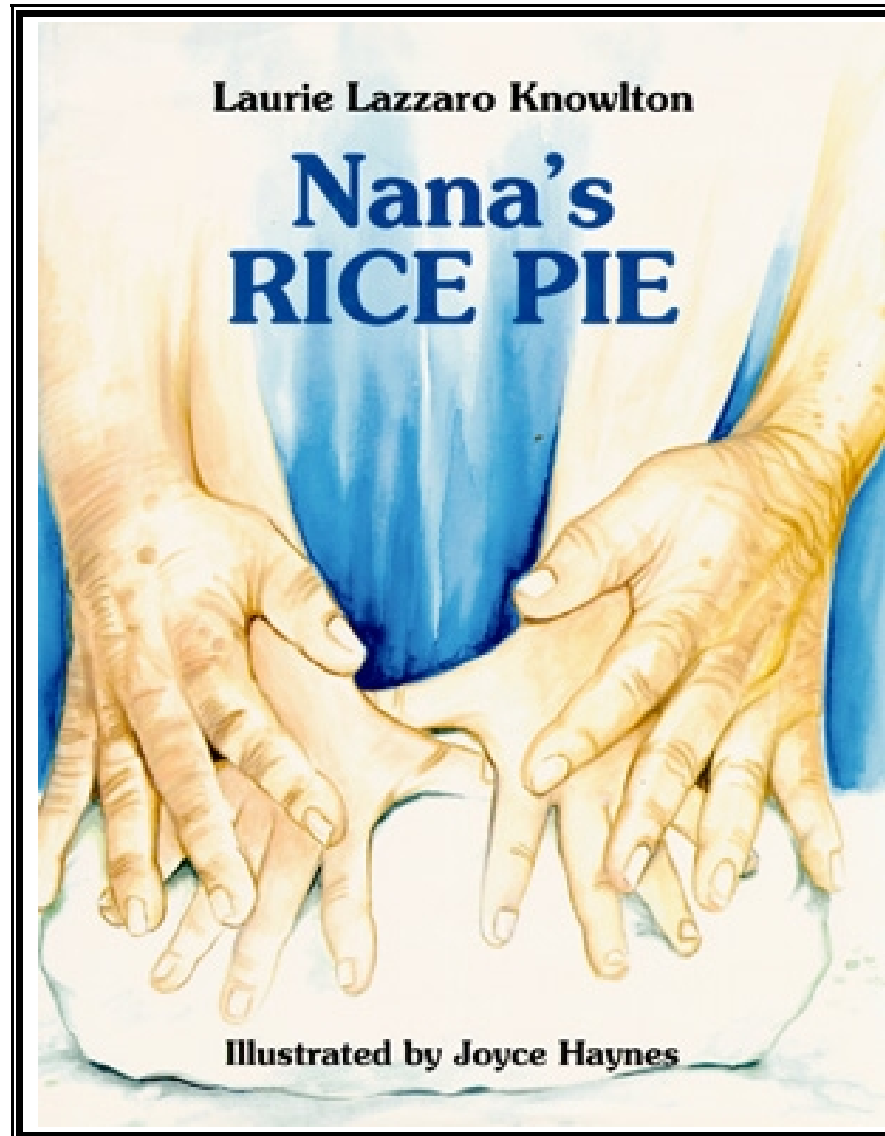


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Activity Guide For.....



Activity Guide created by
Laurie L. Knowlton

Worksheets to
Photocopy

Teaching Storytelling with *Nana's Rice Pie*

Storytelling is an art. The storyteller relates important historical events, funny instances, or sad memories to the listener. We all have a bit of a storyteller in us. When we sit at the kitchen table and relate the day's events, or when we are riding in the car and start off with "Remember when..." we become storytellers.

Telling A Good Story

Parts of a story:

Every story has a main character, a setting, a problem or question, and a solution.

A story should be told using descriptive language. Descriptive language is made of words that tell how something looks, smells, tastes, sounds, and feels.

A story should evoke an emotional response in the listener. This emotion is drawn out by finding a common ground between the storyteller and the listener.

In *Nana's Rice Pie*, we see the oral history of a rice-farming family being handed down from grandmother to granddaughter. After you read the book, use the questions below to help find the parts of the story—character, setting, problem or question, and solution. Look for descriptive language in the story and realize the emotions felt by the characters in the book.

1. Why is Sarah upset?
2. What does Nana say to coax Sarah out from under the porch?
3. Can you list the steps to rice farming?
4. What were the fun events associated with rice farming?
5. How did Sarah know the story that Nana was going to tell?
6. Does Nana measure the ingredients the way your family does?
7. How do you know Nana and Sarah have a caring relationship?

After you read the story think about your own family:

1. Do you have a family story you would like to tell?
2. What traditions do you have in your family?
3. What is a favorite food that you enjoy?

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Extended Activities For *Nana's Rice Pie*

Social Studies:

1. In what states can rice farming be found?

2. What social events were a part of farming?

Math:

1. What forms of measurement are used in cooking?

2. Try doubling the rice pie recipe found in the back of *Nana's Rice Pie*.

Language:

1. Why is it important to follow directions when you are cooking?

2. What oral history stories are common in the United States?

Science:

1. What kind of critters do you think would live on or around rice farms?

2. What environment is necessary to produce rice?

Creative Writing:

On a separate sheet,

1. Write about a family tradition.
2. Write about a childhood memory.

The Next Step:

1. Make a class cookbook of traditional dishes.
2. Ask grandparents or older family members to share a favorite memory.

Web sites to find out about story telling and rice farming:**Playground – A Place for Storytelling Activities**

Clues and photos are given to allow children to write their own stories.

www.storyteller.net

Storytelling for Children and Young Adults

Lists resources about storytelling, drama, and creative dramatics.

www.falcon.jmu.edu

African Storytelling

African oral folklore traditions. Includes quotes, describes common themes.

www.cocc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum211/afstory

Rice Farming:

Lundberg Family Farms

Sacramento Valley farmers . Read about their farming methods and find some great recipes.

www.lundberg.com

Rice Farming

Web site for *Rice Farming* magazine

www.ricefarm.com

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NANA'S RICE PIE

By Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton

Illustrated by Joyce Haynes

"Watercolor illustrations show Sara and Nana cooking and the quilt-like borders above each picture depict the process of growing rice . . . topic and approach are unique enough to warrant interest by readers who like cooking or have a specific interest in rice." --Children's Literature

Nana, in the endearing way of grandmothers, tells Sara of the importance of rice for their family and explains why her pa has to work so long and hard. Sara, reluctant at first, slowly begins to listen to the story and actually to participate in telling it. Together, they make a delicious, sweet rice pie, and soon the two are singing a song that spans the generations of their family.

Now anyone can make sweet rice pie by following the recipe included in this book.

The vivid artwork captures not only the story but the mood behind the story in its warm simplicity of style. Yet, each page uses an innovative storytelling mechanism, with a small band of illustrations at the top and a gingham-framed picture at each end. While the main illustrations depict the action of the story, the top treatment serves to illustrate what the characters are thinking and talking about. The effect is to convey a wordless narrative that is woven seamlessly throughout the book, which raises the story to a completely different level.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton is also the author of *Why Cowboys Sleep with Their Boots On* (\$15.95), *Why Cowboys Need a Brand* (\$15.95), *Why Cowgirls Are Such Sweet Talkers* (\$15.95), *Why Cowboys Need a Pardner* (\$15.95), and *Red, White, and Blue* (\$15.95, \$7.95 pb), all published by Pelican. She currently resides in Medina, Ohio.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Joyce Haynes, a resident of Pineville, Missouri, has won numerous local, state, and national awards for her illustrations. Her illustrated books include *Eyr the Hunter: A Story of Ice-Age America* (\$13.95), *When the Great Canoes Came* (\$12.95 pb F), and *A Good Soup Attracts Chairs* (\$19.95 pb), all published by Pelican.

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By Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton

Illustrated by Joyce Haynes

32 pp. 8½ x 11

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