

TEACHERS ACTIVITIES



Theme:

Sometimes your eyes can fool you, and things are not what they seem to be.

Topics For Discussion:

In the program, LeVar asks young people what their dream cake would look like. Pose the same question to the students. Does their dream cake have any special ingredients?



This program deals with the concept of "mistaken identity." The wax figures are designed to look like the persons they are depicting, and the cake and the hat looked exactly alike. Invite students to share any experiences they have had with mistaken identity.



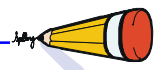
Ask students to share stories of baking triumphs and disasters of their own or of a family member.

Curriculum Extension Activities:

Invite someone into the classroom who knows how to decorate cakes. (This person need not be a professional. Inquire within families of the students or school personnel.) Have her/him demonstrate how to do lettering and how to make various decorations.



Have students try their hand at cake decorating. Borrow several sets of plastic cake decorating tips that fit on cylindrical tubes. Use an inexpensive frosting mix to make frosting. Have them make their creations on waxed paper, and allow the frosting to set a bit for firmness. Have the decorations for a snack and discuss the difficulty of writing and making the designs. (Parent volunteers would be a welcome addition to this activity!)



Make a pictograph of the students' favorite kinds of cake. Use cake cutouts colored by the students for the graph.

Take a field trip to a bakery to see how professional bakers make the cakes. Compare the types of machinery they use to the appliances that are used for home cake baking.



Give students a sheet that contains an outline of an undecorated cake. Have them design their own birthday cake.



Enlist the aid of parent volunteers and bake cupcakes in the classroom. Discuss the recipe with the students, emphasizing the importance of reading the measurements carefully and following the directions for preparation. Frost the finished cupcakes and provide all sorts of toppings for decorating.



Give each student a lump of clay and partner her/him with another student. Have them study the features of their partner and sculpt their partner's head.



The title of the story contains the idiomatic expression, "take the cake." Discuss the meaning of the expression with the students and compare it to its literal meaning. See what other idiomatic expressions that students know (e.g., "you crack me up," "go fly a kite," "fly off the handle," "let the cat out of the bag," "your eyes are bigger than your stomach," and others.) Have students divide pieces of paper in half. One one side, have them draw the literal meaning of an idiomatic expression; on the other side, have them draw what the expression usually means to us. There are other expressions that involve cake, such as "that's a piece of cake" and "it was a cakewalk." Determine if students have heard these expressions and what they mean.



There are several uses of humor in the story, besides the play on words in the title and the obvious joke of confusing the hat with the cake. Obtain a copy of the book and read the story to the class. What other absurdities or humorous elements can they find in the story? Possibilities include the names of the sheep in the Knitting Circle, the fact that the sheep are knitting sweaters for orphan lambs, the "Baa Baa of Seville" (which will require some explanation), Muriel dresses in "two shakes" (of a lamb's tail?), etc.

Have students write cake recipes. Look at some cookbooks ahead of time, noticing how ingredients, directions for mixing, baking time and temperature are included in the recipe. Bind the recipes into a cake cookbook for the classroom library.

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

DON'T WAKE MAMA!
by Eileen Christelow (Clarion)

CAKE DECORATING
by Jenny Harris & Sara Carter (Price Stern Sloan)

JAKE BAKED THE CAKE
by B. G. Hennessy, illus. by Mary Morgan (Viking)

DON'T FORGET
by Patricia Lakin, illus. by Ted Rand (Tambourine)

LOVE FROM AUNT BETTY
by Nancy Winslow Parker (Dodd, Mead)

THUNDER CAKE
by Patricia Polacco (Philomel)

BENNY BAKES A CAKE
by Eve Rice (Greenwillow)

MR. PUTTER AND TABBY BAKE THE CAKE
by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Arthur Howard (Harcourt Brace)

HATTIE BAKED A WEDDING CAKE
by Toby Speed, illus. by Cathi Hepworth (Putnam)

BUNNY CAKES
by Rosemary Wells (Dial)

THE HIGH RISE GLORIOUS SKITTLE SKAT ROARIOUS SKY PIE ANGEL FOOD
CAKE

by Nancy Willard, illus. by Richard Jesse Watson (Harcourt Brace)

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