

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

December 15, 2016

Article: “Gather a crowd to make Ravioli”

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 in the print replica of The Seattle Times, NWWednesday, page B4

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Objective:

Students will read a nonfiction article in which the author describes a family tradition, using this as a jumping off point, students will share and describe their own family traditions.

Pre-Reading:

Either describe or draw a picture of a tradition involving food that you and your family have. This might involve holidays, special occasions, or just be something special your family makes every once in a while.

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

annual

assembled

crimped

dousing

elastic

encompasses

groove

knead

pastry

plops

ravioli

shaggy

versatile

Comprehension:

1. What kind of food does the author make during December?
2. When will the author and her family eat the ravioli?
3. Why does the author believe that the ravioli making process is special?
4. What is lefse?
5. What three items does the author's 89-year-old grandmother use to make ravioli?
6. The author says that it is nearly impossible to do what?
7. What does the author mean by "a versatile filling"?
8. What are "covadilles"?

Post-Reading:

"Ravioli is special. We only eat it this time of year, partially because of all the work that goes into making it. But as I've gotten older, I've realized it's also special because I'm making it in a group with people I love."

After reading the above excerpt discuss the following questions:

Why is ravioli important to the author? Can you relate to the author in this piece? Does this remind you of the tradition that you drew in the warm-up activity? How so? How is it different? What other traditions can you think of that involve food, either in your own family or that you have heard about?

Building Language Skills:

“It’s the same reason why so many of my Mexican friends make tamales to eat at Christmas, or my North Dakota family gets together to make lefse, a Norwegian flatbread; many hands make light work and the result is something you all share in together.”

Bring in a recipe that relates to the tradition that you described or drew in the warm up activity. Share your recipe with your class by having a potluck and/or compiling a class cookbook. Distribute a copy of your recipe to the class. Include a final draft of either your drawing or your description of the family tradition along with your recipe for the cookbook. Make sure to take the time to create a special cover for your cookbook as well!

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. Ravioli
2. On Christmas eve
3. Because of the work that goes into making it as well as because she gets to make it with a group of people she loves
4. A Norwegian flatbread
5. A rolling pin, a sharp knife, and a fork
6. Over-knead the dough
7. That it goes well with a lot of different things
8. Small noodles made from left over scraps from making ravioli