

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Seattle-area teen baker publishes cookbook**

Section: **THE MIX, E8**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, September 12, 2021** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will brainstorm their family's favorite foods and desserts. They'll discuss whether cooking and baking can be described as artistic and creative. They will talk about why food is such a special way to connect with others. They will choose 3 recipes (main dishes/desserts) that are important to their family/culture and share their memories/experiences that are tied to these specific dishes.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
- Are there any clues?
- What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Sahana Vij, who made these thumbprint cookies with raspberry jam, will be donating her book’s **royalties** to No Kid Hungry, a national organization that fights child hunger.”

Royalties Guess:

Royalties Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Sahana Vij, who made these thumbprint cookies with raspberry jam, will be donating her book’s royalties to No Kid Hungry, a national organization that fights what?
2. When Sahana Vij was in kindergarten, she’d make _____ with her mother and serve them at a women’s shelter in downtown Seattle.
3. That’s when she says she learned food should be _____, not _____, and that it could be a way to communicate and connect with people.
4. Now 18, Vij has written “Bake Away.” What’s in her cookbook?

5. The book, released in Seattle on Sept. 11, will be available nationally on Oct. 26. And she's donating all of the royalties to No Kid Hungry, a national organization that fights child hunger by doing what?
6. Each recipe is tied to what?
7. Three of the recipes are inspired by the Seattle area. What are the recipes and what are the ties that makes it special for her?
8. Vij says she sees the book as a continuation of this philosophy of _____: She'll be sharing her recipes with readers and the money from royalties with food-insecure children across the U.S. Vij has been cooking with her mother since she was about 5 years old after she moved to Redmond as a toddler, mostly making breakfast foods like pancakes and French toast at first.
9. But as she got older, she became enthralled by baking because of the _____ and _____ involved in decorating pastries.
10. Her father, Shawn Vij, says baking was "like _____" for her.
11. Around two years, and many rounds of edits, later, the book will be published just as Vij prepares to move away from her family and hometown for college at the University of California, Irvine. But she says "Bake Away" is about the importance of what?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first I thought _____, but now I think _____?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***
- ***What are your family's favorite desserts? Why?***
- ***Do you think that cooking and baking can be described as artistic and creative? Why or why not?***
- ***Why do you think Vij wanted to give her royalties to No Kid Hungry, instead of keeping the profits for herself? Do you think that would be a hard decision to do, once she got her book deal?***
- ***Why is food such a special way to connect with others?***

Choose 3 recipes (main dishes/desserts) that are important to your family/culture. What are your memories/experiences that are tied to those specific dishes?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

Copyright © 2021 The Seattle Times Company