READING CHAMPION

A Cake for Gran



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It was Gran's birthday.

"I want to make a birthday cake for Gran," said Asha.

"I want to make this cake,"
said Asha.

"I'll help you," said Dad.



Dad looked at the cookery book.

"We need some eggs," he said.



But Asha dropped them.

"Never mind," said Dad and he got more eggs.



Independent Reading

This series is designed to provide an opportunity for your child to read on their own. These notes are written for you to help your child choose a book and to read it independently.

In school, your child's teacher will often be using reading books which have been banded to support the process of learning to read. Use the book band colour your child is reading in school to help you make a good choice. *A Cake for Gran* is a good choice for children reading at Blue Band in their classroom to read independently.

The aim of independent reading is to read this book with ease, so that your child enjoys the story and relates it to their own experiences.

About the book

Asha wants to make something special for Gran's birthday. She spots the perfect cake in Dad's cookbook, but it turns out to be much harder to make than it looks!

Before reading

Help your child to learn how to make good choices by asking: "Why did you choose this book? Why do you think you will enjoy it?" Look at the cover together and ask: "What do you think the story will be about?" Support your child to think of what they already know about the story context. Read the title aloud and ask: "What does Asha want to do? How do you think her plan goes?" Remind your child that they can try to sound out the letters to make a word if they get stuck.

Decide together whether your child will read the story independently or read it aloud to you. When books are short, as at Blue Band, your child may wish to do both!

During reading

If reading aloud, support your child if they hesitate or ask for help by telling the word. Remind your child of what they know and what they can do independently.

If reading to themselves, remind your child that they can come and ask for your help if stuck.

After reading

Support comprehension by asking your child to tell you about the story. Use the story trail to encourage your child to retell the story in the right sequence, in their own words.

Give your child a chance to respond to the story: "Did you have a favourite part? What things went wrong? How did Asha feel?"

Help your child think about the messages in the book that go beyond the story and ask: "Why didn't the cake look like the one in the cook book? Why is everyone still happy at the end of the story?

What could Asha do differently next time?"

Extending learning

Help your child understand the story structure by using the same sentence patterns and adding some new elements. "Let's make up a new story. 'It's Father's day. Asha wants to make a card for Dad. First she paints a picture. but the paints spill over. Then she adds some glitter, but it gets stuck on her hands ...' What happens in your story?"

In the classroom, your child's teacher may be reinforcing punctuation and how it informs the way we group words in sentences. On a few of the pages, ask your child to find the speech marks that show us where someone is talking and then read it aloud, making it sound like talking. Find the question marks and ask your child to practise the expression they used for asking questions.

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