

FARRAR STRAUS GIROUX

Teachers' Guide

Everything on a Waffle

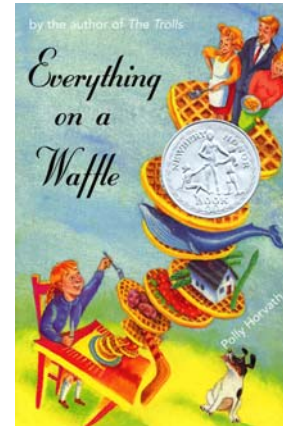
by Polly Horvath

Grade Level:

Grades 3–5

Introduction

A tale of a (possibly) orphaned girl: eleven-year-old Primrose, from a small Canadian fishing village, just won't believe that her parents died in an ocean storm. She finds a restaurant called The Girl on the Red Swing, where everything comes on a waffle—lasagna, fish, you name it—and the owner takes her under her wing and teaches her how to cook.



Discussion

1. The names Primrose and Perfidy have other meanings. Look up the meanings in a dictionary. Why do you believe the author chose these names? Does your name have another meaning?
2. Primrose includes a recipe in each chapter of her story. Why do you think cooking is so important to her?
3. Why do you think Primrose believes her parents are alive when everyone else in town is convinced they have died?

Activity Suggestions

1. What do you anticipate happening in the story by looking at the cover? Create a new cover for the book that would represent what you think is the main theme.
2. Explain similes. Read the description of Primrose on page 3 aloud. Write a similar paragraph about yourself.
3. The second chapter begins with a bullying scene. As a group, read the taunting lines while someone portrays Primrose. The first time you play the scene, have Primrose run away. Repeat the scene, but this time call "Freeze" before Primrose runs away and discuss what Primrose might do or say.
4. Pick one of the recipes in the book and cook and taste-test it with a family member. Using a three-ring binder, create a family recipe book of favorites.
5. Compare and contrast waffle recipes. With several students, cook and taste-test several kinds of waffles. Write descriptions of the results in the style of a restaurant critic.

EVERYTHING ON A WAFFLE



About the Author

Polly Horvath was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she began writing as a child. She quit writing to study dance in Canada and New York. Now, with her two daughters in school, she just writes. Her books include *The Canning Season*, winner of the National Book Award, and *The Trolls*, a National Book Award Finalist. She lives in Metchosin, British Columbia.

For more information on Polly Horvath:

Web sites:

www.fsgkidsbooks.com

Includes a biography of the author and additional information about her novels.

www.pollyhorvath.com

Contains more information about the author and her books.

www.nancymatson.com/authorinterviews/horvat.htm

Includes a brief biography and interview with the author about *The Trolls*.

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