

Pie

Recommended for Grades 4-6

Book Summary: Pie

Alice's Aunt Polly has a talent for pie making and has the entire city in love with her famous pies. When she dies, everyone jumps at the chance of winning the Blueberry Award for the best pie now that their competition is gone.

Her own family is surprised when, instead of leaving them her prize-winning pie crust recipe, Polly has left them her cat who is the only one alive with the secret. Alice puzzles over the mystery of how the cat, Lardo, knows the secret until someone else decides to find out the secret first and catnaps Lardo.

[SPOILERS]

Alice is convinced that the cat hold the secret. A Blueberry award competitor who has the same idea steals Lardo and ransacks Aunt Polly's shop in the hopes of finding the recipe first before Alice catches her in the act. It turns out that Aunt Polly left her pie recipe to the company who made LARDO vegetable shortening for which Lardo the cat was named. It was Polly's wish that everyone would be able to have the recipe on every can of LARDO they bought.

Author Biography: Sarah Weeks

Sarah Weeks was born March 18, 1955 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Hampshire College and went on to New York University for a Master of Fine Arts. In addition to writing, Sarah currently works as an adjunct professor at the New School University in New York. She is also one of the founders of Author's Readers Theater, a group of traveling authors that perform dramatic staged readings. She is married to Jim Fyfe and has two sons and a stepdaughter: Gabriel, Nathaniel and Hailey. They live in New York.



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272

Pie

Recommended for Grades 4-6

Discussion Questions: Pie

1. Although Polly had a talent for making pies, she never charged people for her pies. Her sister, Ruthie, thought it was a mistake for her to not to make a fortune with her pies. Who do you think was right? Why?
2. Alice doesn't have her Aunt Polly's pie making talent, but she still enjoys spending time with her. How is Alice like Polly? How is she different?
3. How are Ruthie and Polly different? Do you agree with one sister more than the other? If so, who and why?
3. Before each chapter, the author adds a different pie recipe. Does this enhance the story? Why or why not? Which recipe is your favorite?
4. After Polly died, everyone becomes obsessed with baking pies so they can try to win the Blueberry Award. Why was there less competition when Polly was alive?
5. Alice misses the closeness she had with her Aunt Polly and goes to her mother, hoping to spend time with her. Instead, Ruthie accuses her daughter of trying to stop her from winning the Blueberry. Has Alice done anything to her mother to make Ruthie believe that?
6. Polly gave her recipe to LARDO so everyone could have an equal chance of making perfect pies. Do you think the pie recipe should've been shared or remained a secret in the family? Why? If you were Polly, would you share your million dollar secret so everyone could make a perfect pie crust?
7. Most of the story revolves around two mysteries—how Polly gave her winning recipe to Lardo and who's breaking into PIE and kidnapping Lardo. Did you find the mysteries believable? What were your theories while you were reading the book? Would you have done anything differently if you had written the book?
8. Alice leaves three sardines near Lardo's grave and not only are they gone the next day, but there is a big white cat like Lardo at Alice's door the next morning. What did you think about this ending? Could it be just a coincidence or could it really be a new Lardo?



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272