

Pickles to Pittsburgh

ABOUT THE STORY

The night before Kate and Henry's grandfather is expected back from vacation, Kate has a strange dream. In it, she visits an unusual land called Chewandswallow, where huge portions of food grow in the ground and fall from the sky. The food is distributed around the world by the townspeople. When Kate wakes up and remembers her dream, she is amazed. But why, when she tells her grandfather about it, isn't he surprised.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Judi Barrett is the author of another book about the town of Chewandswallow, *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*. She has written many other books for young readers as well, including *Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing* and *What's Left?*, which she also illustrated. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she teaches art to young people.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ron Barrett also illustrated *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, another Live Oak Readalong, as well as many other Judi Barrett's other picture books. His illustrations have been exhibited at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

If any children have read the earlier book about Chewandswallow, ask them to describe what happens in that story. Then ask children what kinds of food would be fun to see in gigantic form and what kinds might be unappetizing or disgusting. Explain that in this book, a girl dreams about a place where enormous food grow and rain down from the sky.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What is Kate looking at when she falls asleep?"
- "What is the dream forest made of?"
- "What kind of rain falls?"
- "What do the people of Chewandswallow do with the food?"
- "What is your opinion of the townspeople's solution to their food problem?" (Express opinions)
- "Where do you think Grandpa went on his vacation?" Explain your answer. (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Have students unscramble these words to match the words in the box. Then they can use the numbered letters to answer question below.

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>wa</u> erten | <u>vi</u> latted | <u>ah</u> oed <u>cn</u> r |
| 4 | 12 5 | 10 1 |
| gret <u>wi</u> on | mn <u>ra</u> tes | refi <u>ht</u> gre |
| 14 6 | 3 | 2 |
| ecm <u>wol</u> ign | esviro <u>rs</u> | tou <u>hg</u> d |
| 9 11 | 13 8 | 7 |

What is the name of the land of giant food?

C h e w a n d s w a l l o w
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health: Food Pyramid

Help children make a large poster of the food pyramid. On the pyramid, the top (smallest) pieces should be labeled **fat/oils – use sparingly**. Below, the next section is divided in two and labeled **milk/cheese – 2-3 servings** and **meat/poultry/fish/beans/eggs/nuts – 2-3 servings**. The next section is divided into two and labeled **fruit – 2-4 servings** and **vegetables – 3-5 servings**. The bottom is labeled **bread/cereal/rice/pasta – 6-11 servings**. Children can fill in each section of the pyramid with examples of foods they like – including foods from *Pickles to Pittsburgh*.

Social Studies

Help children learn about organizations in your area that provide for people in need. If possible, show them brochures and informational pamphlets about these community organizations, or invite a representative from one organization to explain to the children how the food is collected and distributed.

Science: Wet and Dry Weather

In *Pickles to Pittsburgh*, it rains food. Encourage children to find out what happens in an actual rainstorm. Have them work in groups to find information on how rainstorms happen, what occurs when too much rain falls, and what occurs when too little rain falls. Groups can report what they learn to the class

Art: Weather Map

Have children look at the weather map at the end of the book. They can make their own version of the map for their town, including food fronts of their choice.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Weather Around the World

Children can find out about weather all over the world, including where there are large rainfalls and where there are droughts, by looking at this Website:
<http://.weather.com/homepage.html>.

Pickle Book

Children can collect pickling recipes for a class pickle book at this Website:
<http://www.pressroom.com/~medvid/recipes/pickles/pickles.html>.