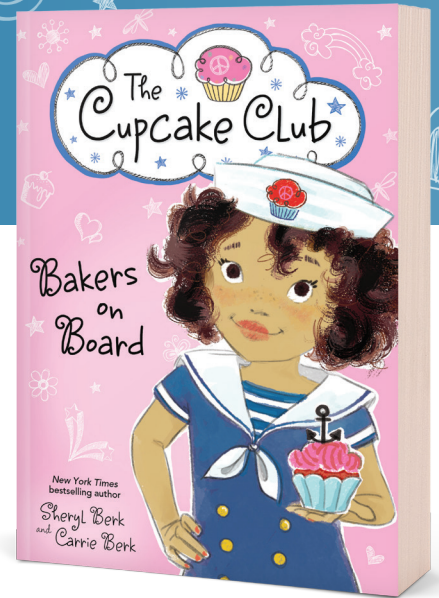


Bakers on Board



The Cupcake Club
book 9



A Curriculum Guide for Grades 3, 4, and 5

SNAPSHOT SUMMARY

Jenna Medina and her family are embarking on a seven-day cruise to the Bahamas, courtesy of her stepfather, Leo, and his designer corporation. Unfortunately, three of her siblings contract chicken pox, and her mother, Betty, is forced to stay home with them. Four members of the Cupcake Club replace them: Kylie, Lexi, Sadie, and Delaney. In return, the girls must provide twelve thousand cupcakes for the costume party on board. Marisol, Jenna's older sister, secures a job on the cruise ship as an assistant photographer and decides that this will be her future career. A rainstorm almost destroys the Cupcake display, but Jenna is able to salvage some of the cakes. The gala is a huge success, despite the weather.

SUMMARY

Jenna Medina, the chief taster of the Cupcake Club, and her family are invited to join her stepfather's corporation cruise to the Bahamas. In the interim, she, Lexi, Sadie, Kylie, and Delaney work on an order of twelve dozen red, white, and blue cupcakes, decorated with a fondant George Washington on each, for the Mt. Vernon Library's fundraising cocktail party. The number of cakes needed is suddenly doubled, and the girls form an assembly line to complete the task on time.

Upon delivery, the bakers find the library closed and are forced to leave the boxes with a local neighbor, Harold Hammond, a professional photographer. He befriends Marisol, Jenna's older sister, who secretly longs to follow a similar path. Both are hired to take pictures on the cruise.

Sadly, three of Jenna's siblings come down with chicken pox, and her mother remains at home to care for them. They are replaced by the four members of the Cupcake Club, with the provision that they bake twelve thousand cakes for the gala costume party on the ship.

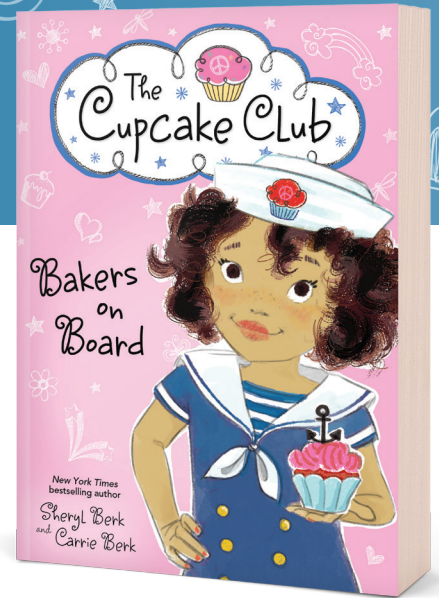
After two days of nonstop baking, the girls are exhausted. They set their cupcakes on a raft in the pool outside the festivities. A rainstorm ensues, and the display topples into the water. Jenna comes to the rescue and salvages many of the cupcakes for the banquet. The girls complete the journey, including a visit to Disney World, and Marisol makes a decision. With her mother's blessing, she will realize her dream of becoming a photographer.



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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How did Leo endear himself to Jenna and her family? What qualities did he display?
2. Why was Marisol so sad and unexcited about the vacation?
3. Have you ever been on a cruise ship? Where did you go? What were your feelings about being at sea?
4. Each member of the Cupcake Club has their own job. What could you contribute to the organization? Why?
5. Give the reasons why baking is or is not a science.
6. What is the bond between Marisol and Harold? What advice does he give her?
7. Marisol is ambivalent about her decision to study photography. Would you prefer to follow your dreams or please your family?
8. What did Kylie mean when she said, "The problem is not the problem. The problem is the attitude about the problem"?
9. Why did Marisol's mother change her mind about her daughter's career?
10. Why did Marisol lie about the camera and her love for photography?
11. Describe Sadie's feelings about being a runway model.

NEW VOCABULARY

Using clues found in the text, write your definitions of these words and phrases:

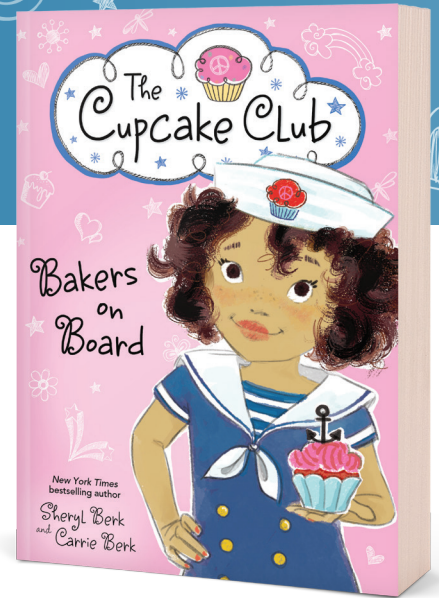
- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Stifle a laugh | 8. Shiver me timbers | 16. Bermuda shorts | 24. Tripod |
| 2. Corporate retreat | 9. Rub it in | 17. Hawaiian shirt | 25. Inventory |
| 3. Brochure | 10. Dollop | 18. Hyperventilating | 26. Negative |
| 4. Ignition | 11. Full swing | 19. Video arcade | 27. Ganache |
| 5. Glitches | 12. Curriculum | 20. Laser lights | 28. Waitstaff |
| 6. Grounded | 13. Bad timing | 21. Shish kebab | 29. Smooth sailing |
| 7. Swashbuckling | 14. Anchors aweigh | 22. Soak up some rays | 30. Seventeen hundred hours |
| | 15. Impeccable | 23. Grumpy | 31. Mesmerize |



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ACTIVITIES

1. Using the Spanish words and their definitions in the text, create a picture dictionary of the language.
(Art, Math, Writing, Reading, Social Studies, Computer)
2. Design a bedroom for Jenna. Include a floor plan, furniture, materials, carpets, and curtains. Work in groups of four.
(Art, Math, Writing, Science)
3. Draw a map of the route between New York and the Bahamas. Indicate the stops along the way.
(Art, Social Studies, Writing)
4. Create a brochure for the cruise ship and its facilities. Work in table groups.
(Art, Writing, Reading, Computer)
5. In groups of five, design a website for the Cupcake Club. Include the members and their products, displays, and recipes.
(Computer, Art, Science, Writing, Social Studies, Math)
6. Research and role-play the life of George Washington, from childhood to soldier to presidency. Work in table groups.
(Social Studies, Computer, Writing, Reading)
7. Write a résumé for a job at the Cupcake Club. Include your abilities and other qualifications that support your goal.
(Reading, Writing)
8. As a class, paint a mural showing the runway at sea. Add figures, including Sadie.
(Art, Math, Social Studies, Reading, Writing)
9. Using your favorite pictures, share a photo exhibit with the class. Post on a bulletin board outside the classroom.
(Art, Math, Social Studies, Writing)
10. Select a famous pirate and research his life and activities. Write a report on the character.
(Research, Computer, Reading, Writing, Social Studies)
11. Create your own cupcake recipe for the festivities on board the cruise ship. Include ingredients and decoration.
(Art, Science, Math, Social Studies, Writing, Research)
12. In groups of five, write a song and lyrics for the pirate party. Present to the class.
(Music, Reading, Writing, Social Studies)
13. Create a PowerPoint presentation about the parts and functions of a camera.
(Computer, Reading, Research, Science, Writing)
14. Illustrate a pirate costume for the gala.
(Art, Science, Math, Materials)
15. Create a diorama depicting one of the attractions at Disney World.
(Art, Math, Science, Reading, Writing)

