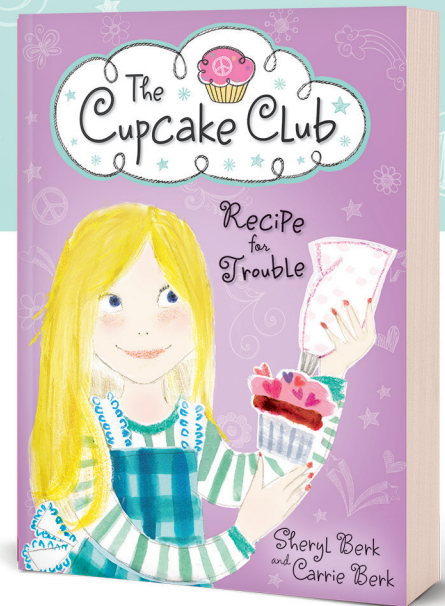




# Recipe for Trouble

## The Cupcake Club Book 2



## A Curriculum Guide for Grades 3, 4, and 5

### SNAPSHOT SUMMARY:

This episode of the Cupcake Club series features the story of Lexi Poole, the ten-year-old artiste extraordinaire of the club, whose frostings and fondants convert a cupcake into a masterpiece. She is shy, until fate steps in and she becomes the lead in the Blakely School production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Her crush, Jeremy, is the male lead, and friendship blossoms into first love.

### FULL-LENGTH SUMMARY:

Lexi Poole, a member of the Peace, Love, and Cupcakes Club, misses her fellow bakers during summer vacation. They give her a sense of belonging and caring. To compensate for her loneliness, she is invited to visit her aunt Dee in New York City. She attends art classes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, eats a cupcake at a Grand Central Terminal bakery, goes to the Top of the Rock, and walks around various neighborhoods of the city. She forms a close relationship with her aunt and hates to leave her after four weeks to return to school. Her parting gift is an “I Love New York” T-shirt, which Lexi promises to wear on the first day.

September brings back the Cupcake Club, with her friends Jenna, Sadie, and Kylie, as well as a new member, Delaney. Lexi has changed and defends her opinions. The girls’ business continues to flourish, as they make back-to-school cupcakes for Blakely and *Star Wars*–themed ones for a birthday party.

Lexi also finds a boyfriend, Jeremy, who, unbeknownst to her, suffers from juvenile diabetes. They both join the drama class and audition for and win the roles of Romeo and Juliet in the Shakespearian play, directed by Juliette, the club’s mentor, and Rodney Higgins of Great Shakes for Kids. As a sign of affection for her costar, Lexi devises a spaghetti-and-meatball cupcake, which has no sugar so is safe for him to eat.

Overcoming her shyness and bolstered in her confidence by her aunt Dee, Lexi gives a flawless performance until the death scene. She forgets her lines and freezes in her movements. All seems lost, until Kylie saves the day with a pretend “poison” cupcake. The audience thinks this change was incorporated to make the play more relatable to the children watching the presentation. The show is a big success, and Lexi and Jeremy find first love.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

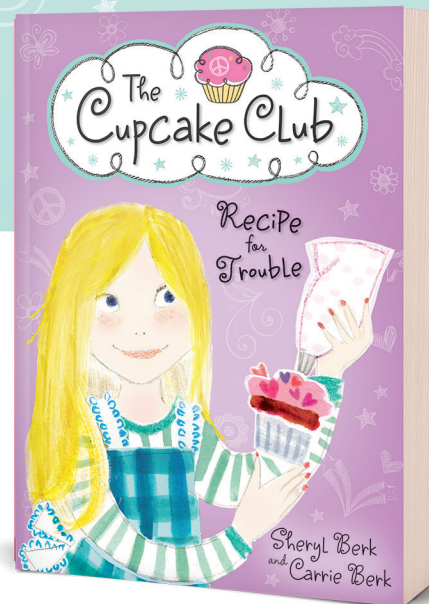
1. Have you ever been to summer camp? How did you react to it?
2. Do you have a special person in your family like Aunt Dee? What makes them unique?
3. If you live in or have visited New York City, what is your favorite spot and why? If you’ve never visited New York City, what would you most like to see?
4. Lexi is an artist, both on paper and with cupcakes. Do you have any special talents?





# Recipe for Trouble

## The Cupcake Club Book 2



5. Have you ever read a play by Shakespeare? Which role would you like to portray and why?
6. Jeremy has juvenile diabetes. Do you have a friend or relative who suffers from an illness? How do you help them?
7. Why did Lexi suddenly feel faint? How would you have come to her assistance?
8. What did Kylie mean by "that's what friends are for"? What are the qualities of a good friend?
9. How did Lexi gain confidence? Has anyone ever helped you stand up for yourself, "head held high"?
10. Explain the title of the book. What was the PLC's recipe for Lexi's trouble?

### NEW VOCABULARY

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

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Devastated              | 15. Stand her ground                 |
| 2. Barreled straight ahead | 16. Mortified                        |
| 3. Buried her head         | 17. Down the hatch                   |
| 4. Abuela                  | 18. Take a stand                     |
| 5. Concourse               | 19. A wild card                      |
| 6. Linking arms            | 20. Queasy                           |
| 7. <i>Quatro leches</i>    | 21. Head held high                   |
| 8. Face your fears         | 22. Vice versa                       |
| 9. Humongous               | 23. Nothing ventured, nothing gained |
| 10. Dog paddle             | 24. Doodle                           |
| 11. Heartbeat of the city  | 25. Worrywart                        |
| 12. A.k.a.                 | 26. Wrung his hands                  |
| 13. Tread water            | 27. Balcony                          |
| 14. Pound the pavement     |                                      |

### ACTIVITIES

1. Role play Lexi, Jeremy, Sadie, Kylie, Jenna, Rodney, Juliette, Delaney, and Aunt Dee. Write a script and act out the story. (**Reading, Writing, Drama**)
2. Read Romeo and Juliet and design dioramas of the various scenes of the play. (**Art, Reading, Math**)
3. Learn about juvenile diabetes. Share your knowledge through a PowerPoint presentation. (**Research, Computer, Art, Science, Reading, Writing, Social Studies**)





# Recipe for Trouble

## The Cupcake Club Book 2

4. Design a brochure depicting places of interest in New York City. Share with your classmates. (**Art, Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies**)
5. Imagine you are Lexi. Write a thank-you letter to Aunt Dee about your visit. (**Reading, Writing**)
6. Devise and write a recipe for back-to-school cupcakes. Illustrate. (**Art, Science, Writing, Math**)
7. Design costumes for the play *Romeo and Juliet*. Construct them out of paper and stage a Shakespearian parade. (**Art, Math, Social Studies**)
8. Watch and discuss a *Romeo and Juliet* ballet video. (**Social Studies, Class Share**)
9. Jeremy could not eat sugar, chocolate, or nuts. Develop and bake a cupcake just for him. (**Art, Math, Science**)
10. Lexi often feels frightened and unwanted. Have you ever felt that way? What did you do to face your fears? (**Writing**)
11. Have you ever acted in a play? Describe your adventures in a graphic style. (**Writing, Math, Social Studies**)
12. Design a valentine for a friend or relative. Use as many kinds of materials as possible. (**Art, Math, Writing**)
13. Using a Venn diagram, compare *Peace, Love, and Cupcakes* and *Recipe for Trouble*. (**Reading, Writing**)

