



2003

### Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

Emily Fry

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#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Fry, Emily (2003) "Granny Torrelli Makes Soup," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 3 , Article 29.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss3/29>

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Creech, Sharon. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*. Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Joanna Cotler Books, 2003. ISBN 0060292911. \$16.89. 141 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Fry

Reading Level: Intermediate; Young adult;

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Grandmothers--Juvenile fiction; Best friends--Juvenile fiction; Cookery--Juvenile fiction;

Rosie and Bailey have been best friends since before they can remember. They were born within weeks of each other, have always lived next door to each other, and have always been there for each other. However, with all great relationships there are ups and downs, and when Rosie declares: "that Bailey, that Bailey I am so mad at right now, that Bailey, I hate him today" it is a definite down day for the duo. It seems that nothing can repair Rosie and Bailey's relationship until Granny Torrelli comes to make soup with Rosie. Granny Torrelli dishes out steaming bowls of soup as well as delectable tidbits of homemade wisdom that help Rosie remember why her friendship with Bailey is so special.

This is a wonderful book from Newberry Medal winner Sharon Creech. Even though the book is a quick read, don't be fooled—it is stuffed full of insights and wisdom. Granny Torrelli's stories have a profound effect upon Rosie, Bailey, and the reader. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* will make a great addition to themed units on friendship as well as family. This is a book that holds a lot of potential for the classroom, especially as a model for how students can play with language in their own writing, just as Sharon Creech does with this story.