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Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen

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Wood, Nancy. *Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen*. Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering. Candlewick Press, 2006. ISBN 0763612588. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Rita Christensen

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Folklore; Humorous stories;

Subject: Creation--Juvenile fiction; Animals--Juvenile fiction; Cookery--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews

Mr. and Mrs. God cook in an unusual kitchen. They own a massive oven that is big enough to roast a star. Their kitchen is stocked with mounds of clay and boxes of growls, roars, sharp teeth, bones, feet, eyes, and tails. The gods use their colossal bowls and pans to whip up the sun and earth and push them out to space. They mix, fry, and bake until all sort of creatures are created to color and embellish the earth.

Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen is a fanciful and playful look at the creation tale. Ering's illustrations are charged with energy through his skillful use of paint, pencil, and ink. Muted grays predominate with bursts of assorted colors added as necessary to indicate the godly creative process. Wood's story employs common folktale narratives of creation in which the earth and man are made out of clay. Children will identify with the telling as the kitchen is a magical place where their own wonderful creations are made.