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# An Apple Pie for Dinner

Sandra L. Tidwell

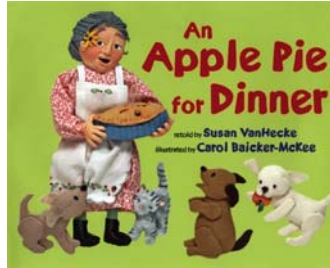
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VanHecke, Susan. *An Apple Pie For Dinner*. Illustrated by Carol Baicker-McKee. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. ISBN 9780761454526. \$17.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture books;

Subject: Grandmothers--Juvenile fiction; Sharing--Juvenile fiction; Baking--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Granny wakes one morning and wants to make an apple pie, but has a major problem. She has only plums, not apples! She confidently sets off down the lane with a basket of plums hoping to find some apples. Everyone Granny meets has a need, and she kindly gives away what she has to help them out. They in turn share what they have with her. She gives her plums so a woman can make plum jam, and she is given a bag of feathers. She gives the feathers to some children to stuff their pillow. She receives flowers, which she willingly gives to a prince who needs a gift for his "ladylove." The gold coin the prince gives her she happily gives to a mother who buys food for her hungry children. The mother gives Granny a cute puppy. The puppy is exactly what a lonely old man needs to keep him company. The grateful old man has an orchard full of apples, which he gladly shares with Granny. Granny invites her new friends to come home to prepare the apples for baking, and they celebrate together. "If you try and try...you can always have an apple pie for dinner!"

When my daughter recently came to visit with her two children, we discovered that we had both read *An Apple Pie for Dinner*. My grandson was happy to see that his Utah grandma had this cute story that he had been reading on the road trip to Grandma's. Lyn and I had both been attracted by the cover illustration, which showed the illustrator's skill at using varied textures and mediums. Baicker-McKee's colorful illustrations use clay, fabric, buttons, hooks, embroidery, trims, etc. Children will enjoy looking for a tiny ladybug on each page! This "Law of the Harvest" story emphasizes confidently sticking to a task and unselfishly sacrificing to meet others' needs. The apple pie recipe and directions are a bonus. Enjoy!

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