

The Baker's Dozen: A Colonial American Tale

By Heather Forest

Outcome:

Students will learn about the consequences of greed and pride as well as the benefits of generosity. Students will be introduced to the origins of the term “baker’s dozen”.

About the Book:

Guided Reading:

P

Lexile Level:

850L

Character Traits:

Courage

Fairness

Trustworthiness

Region:

USA

ISBN:

978-1-9391-6070-6

Materials:

Book, *The Baker's Dozen*

Counting St. Nicholas Cookies Worksheet

Generosity Skit Worksheet

Prebaked sugar cookies from the store

Raisins

Whole walnuts

2 – 16oz containers of vanilla icing

Red food coloring

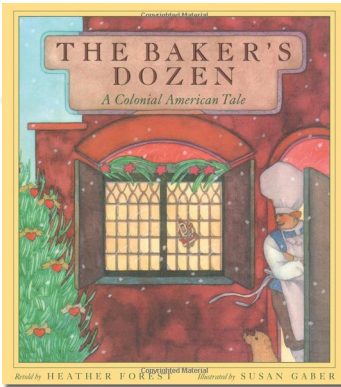
Ziploc bags

Scissors

Bowls

Spoons

Plates, napkins



The Baker's Dozen

Kindergarten

Instructional Plan

Introduction:

- Ask students to describe a time when they were generous to a friend, a family member, or a classmate.
- How did the student feel after being generous?
- How did the other person feel and react?

Read the Story:

- Describe the concept of a “dozen” and a “baker’s dozen.”
- Print out the Counting St. Nicholas Cookies worksheet to show as a way to count to 13.
- Tell students they will be reading about a greedy baker who tries to cut corners by using fewer ingredients. An old lady teaches the baker the importance of being generous with an extra measure; thus, the idea of a “baker’s dozen” is born.

Common Core

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.SL.K.6:

Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.RL.K.2

Retell familiar stories

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.RL.K.1:

Ask & answer question about the text

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.SL.K.1:

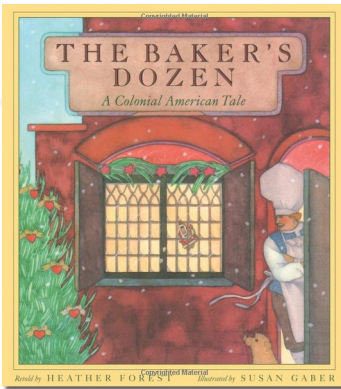
Collaborative conversations

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.RL.K.3:

Identify characters, settings, and major events

Questions for Assessing Students' Comprehension:

- What was Van Amsterdam's occupation?
- Where was Van Amsterdam's bakery located?
- What kind of pet does Van Amsterdam have?
- What shape were Van Amsterdam's famous cookies?
- What were the cookies' eyes made out of?
- What were the cookies' mouths made out of?
- Who visited Van Amsterdam's bakery to purchase a dozen St. Nicholas cookies?
- How many cookies did Van Amsterdam give her?
- How many cookies did Van Amsterdam give her?
- How many cookies did the old lady want?
- What does the old lady say to Van Amsterdam before leaving the bakery?
- What happens afterwards to Van Amsterdam?
- How many cookies does Van Amsterdam give the old lady the second time she visits the bakery?



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Questions for interpretation:

- Why did Van Amsterdam decide to bake St. Nicholas-shaped cookies?
- How did Van Amsterdam's customers initially react to his cookies?
- How does Van Amsterdam's newfound fame affect him?
- What does Van Amsterdam decide to do about his baking techniques?
- How does the old woman react when Van Amsterdam only gives her 12 cookies?
- What happens to Van Amsterdam's baked goods after the old lady leaves his bakery?
- How does Van Amsterdam react when all of his customers leave?
- What lesson does the St. Nicholas cookie supposedly tell Van Amsterdam?
- What happens the second time the old lady visits Van Amsterdam's bakery?
- Why do customers begin to come back to Van Amsterdam's bakery?
- What do the other bakers begin to do after learning about Van Amsterdam?
- What lesson does Van Amsterdam learn?

Common Core

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1:

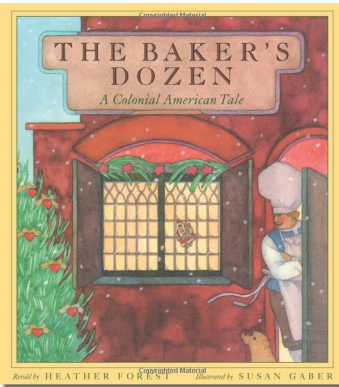
Ask & answer question about the text

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1:

Collaborative conversations

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3:

Identify characters, settings, and major events



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Follow Up Activities:

Make St. Nicholas Cookies

Materials:

- Prebaked sugar cookies from the store
- Raisins
- Whole walnuts
- 2 – 16oz containers of vanilla icing
- Red food coloring
- Ziploc bags
- Scissors
- Bowls
- Spoons
- Plates, napkins

Directions:

- In a bowl, teacher mixes 1 – 16oz container of vanilla icing with enough drops of red food coloring to make a bright red icing.
- Teacher fills alternating Ziploc bags with a few spoonfuls of red icing and white icing.
- Cut the tip off the Ziploc bags to make a piping bag.
- Give each student one red icing piping bag and one white icing piping bag.
- Give each student a plate with one sugar cookie; supply napkins as needed.
- Give each student 2 raisins (for eyes) and 1 whole walnut (for a mouth).
- Students decorate their cookies based on Van Amsterdam's St. Nicholas cookies. Refer to illustrations as needed.
- **Optional:** Give students a second sugar cookie to festively decorate as they wish using the red and white icing.

Common Core

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1:

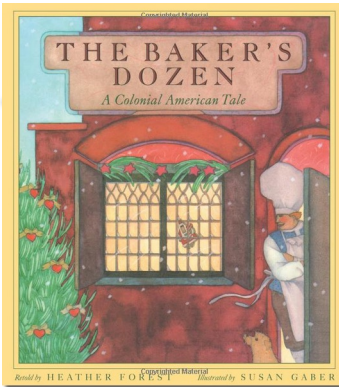
Participate in collaborative conversations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.2:

Confirm understanding of information by asking and answering questions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.3:

Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something.



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Follow Up Activities Continued:

Compare and Contrast

Directions:

- Show students the first image of Van Amsterdam, the image of Van Amsterdam counting his money, the image of Van Amsterdam after his customers leave him, and lastly, the final image of Van Amsterdam rejoicing.
- Have students describe each illustration in a group discussion, noting Van Amsterdam's expressions and the consequences of the actions.
- Compare Amsterdam's attitude in the first illustration to that of the final illustration.

Generosity Skits

Directions:

- Divide students into groups of 2 or 3.
- Cut the scenario strips out from the Generosity Skits worksheet.
- Put strips into a hat or bag and have one student from each group randomly pull a scenario.
- Each group creates their own skit to express a solution to the scenario, demonstrating generosity.

Draw a Picture

Directions:

- Illustrate a scene from the point of view of Van Amsterdam's dog.
- Include a short description of the illustration.

Common Core

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.RL.K.9:
Compare and contrast

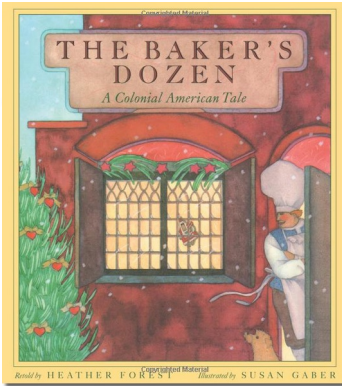
CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.RL.K.7:
Describe the relationship
between illustrations
and the story in which
they appear.

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.L.K.2:
Demonstrate command
of the conventions of
standard English
capitalization,
punctuation and spelling
when writing.

Counting St. Nicholas Cookies







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Generosity Skits

| | |
|---|---|
| Your friends want a cookie but there is only one left. | You see a bully picking on another kid. |
| You see another student sitting alone at lunch. | The student sitting next to you forgot his/her school book. |
| You see another student crying on the playground. | You get a giant bag of candy, but you can't eat it all. |
| It's raining and you see a student without an umbrella. | While walking in the hallway, your friend trips and falls. |