

The Baker's Dozen: A Colonial American Tale

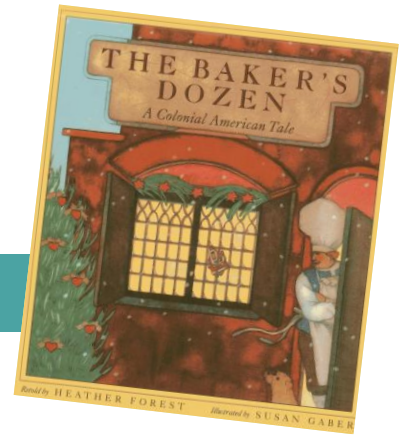
Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Generosity, Kindness, Honesty

Book Brief: A greedy baker in Colonial America learns a tough lesson after trying to cheat his customers. After a mysterious woman curses his shop, he discovers that being fair and kind is the real secret to success.

Author:
Heather Forest

Illustrator:
Susan Gaber



Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “How do we learn to be more generous and less greedy?”
(Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the baker learns a lesson about generosity and honesty.”

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does the baker, Van Amsterdam, show his greediness?
- What happens after the old lady leaves the bakery the first time?
- How does the baker react after all his customer leave him?



Think Aloud:

“I notice that the baker had to learn some lessons the hard way.

I’m wondering...”Have you ever been in a situation where you had to learn a good lesson the hard way?”

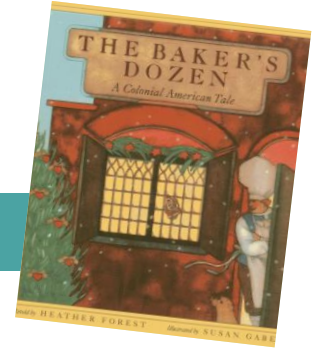
After Reading

Our Purpose: “What lesson did the baker have to learn for himself and for his bakery business?”

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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Extension Activities

Greedy and Generous:

Using a large piece of paper, have the students brainstorm ways the baker was greedy and generous. Discuss how the baker learned from both behaviors.

Compare & Contrast:

Material:

- Book, [The Baker's Dozen: A Colonial American Tale](#)

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.

Write a Short Poem:

Directions:

- Write a short poem about cookies or about a baker.
- Illustrate the poem.
- Present to the class.