

Spaghetti Code

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Problem-Solving, STEM, Teamwork

Book Brief: Kelly is more than ready to help Chef Amato build a pasta-making machine to create the perfect bowl of spaghetti for his new restaurant!

Author:
Karlie Kloss and
Vicky Fang

Illustrator:
Remi Jose



BEFORE READING

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

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “Have you ever had to solve a tricky problem? What happened?” (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

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

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how Kelly solves problems when things don't go as planned. What helps her keep going?”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why does Chef Amato keep adding more features to the machine?
- What happens when the code becomes too complicated?
- Why doesn't Kelly give up when the machine stops working?
- What changes help solve the problem?



Think Aloud: “When something doesn't work, Kelly doesn't quit. She observes the problem, tests new ideas, and keeps improving her solution. Let's notice the problem-solving strategies she uses throughout the story.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “What lesson did Kelly learn about solving problems? Why wasn't adding more features the best solution?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, “Why do you think Kelly was able to solve the problem when the machine stopped working? What did she do instead of giving up?” Help students connect the story to their own experiences by discussing how mistakes can lead to new ideas and how breaking a big problem into smaller steps can make it easier to solve. Encourage them to share a time when they kept trying until they figured something out.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to write or draw an invention that solves a real-world problem.
- Practice giving step-by-step directions (an algorithm) for an everyday task, like making a sandwich or brushing your teeth, and discuss why clear instructions matter.
- Explore other books about coding, engineering, invention, or perseverance and compare how the characters solve problems.