



www.liveoakmedia.com

Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Pete's A Pizza

Live Oak Readalongs are protected by copyright. The components in Live Oak Readalongs may not be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission.

ABOUT THE STORY

Pete is really upset. It's raining out, and his plan to play ball with his friends is spoiled. When his father sees how sad Pete is, he decides to cheer his son up by making a pizza. This pizza is really different, though – it's made of Pete!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

William Steig grew up in the Bronx, New York, and was a talented athlete in school. At the same time, though, he loved creating cartoons. He had a long and successful career drawing cartoons for the *New Yorker* and other magazines. It wasn't until he was sixty-one years old that he began writing and illustrating children's books. William Steig's books have won many awards, including the prestigious Caldecott Medal, awarded for the picture book *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. He is also the author and illustrator of *Shrek!*, another Live Oak Readalong.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe the times when they were in a really bad mood. Then have them describe ways they get themselves out of such a mood. Explain that the book they will read is about a boy in a bad mood whose father has an unusual way of cheering him up.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why is Pete in a bad mood?"
- "What does Pete's father decide to do?"
- "Where is the oven?"
- "Does Pete's father's plan work?"
- "Do you think this story is funny? Why or why not?" (*Evaluate*)
- "What kind of person do you think Pete's father is? Explain your answer?" (*Make judgments*)

Vocabulary

Write these words and definitions on the chalkboard. Ask volunteers to draw lines matching each word with its definition. Then have children use the words in sentences.

| | |
|------------|--|
| miserable | caught |
| kneading | in a large amount |
| dough | put on |
| generously | very sad |
| capture | mixture of flour, water, and other ingredients |
| applied | squeezing and stretching |

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Pizza Recipes

Have children look through cookbooks for pizza recipes that appeal to them. They can copy the recipe of their choice. Gather the recipes together in a class Pizza Book. You may wish to copy the book and send it home with children, where they can try making the pizzas with family members.

Art: Make a Pizza

Provide children with various art materials, such as construction paper, colored clay, markers, scissors, and glue. Using a variety of materials, children can work in pairs to create artistic versions of pizzas with favorite toppings on them.

Health: Pizza and the Food Pyramid

Go over the food pyramid with children, reminding them of the categories: grains; fruits; vegetables; dairy; meats, poultry, fish, and eggs; and fats, oils, and sweets. Have volunteers tell which parts of a pizza come from which parts of the pyramid. Try this with various pizza toppings as well.

Social Studies: History of Pizza

Have children look in encyclopedias or books about food to find out where and when pizza was first made. Children can report on the information they find to the rest of the class.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

More about William Steig

Using the name *William Steig* as a keyword, children can visit the author's website on the Internet. Ask them to find out about one of Steig's other books and to report on what they learn about the book to the rest of the class.