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Sweet Potato Pie



Synopsis

During a drought in the early 1900s, a large loving African American family finds a delicious way to earn the money they need to save their family farm.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: NC860L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Lee & Low Books (March 30, 2008)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #605,580 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking by Ingredient > Potatoes](#) #567 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#) #651 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 4-Sadie, an eight-year-old African-American girl, lives on a farm during the early 1900s. Drought has produced the worst crops ever, but the rain arrives just in time to save the sweet potatoes. When Papa receives a letter from the bank threatening to take the farm unless a loan is repaid, Mama has an idea: the family will make sweet potato pies and sell them at the Harvest Celebration in town. Everyone pitches in to get the wagon ready, gather the ingredients, and do the baking. At the fair, Mama's pies sell like hot cakes, guaranteeing a happy ending. Done in an impressionist style, Riley-Webb's rich acrylic artwork adds greatly to the text. The paintings seem to be moving to the tune of exuberant music; the actions and emotions of the characters are reflected through the use of brush strokes, color, and perspective. Although a bit lengthy, this tale is suitable for independent reading or sharing aloud. Pair it with other stories that celebrate families such as Elizabeth Howard's *Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)* (Clarion, 1991), Cynthia Rylant's *The Relatives Came* (Bradbury, 1985), Patricia Polacco's *The Keeping Quilt* (S & S, 1988),

or George Ella Lyon's *Come a Tide* (Orchard, 1990). Susan M. Moore, Louisville Free Public Library, KY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
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Gr. 1-3. Hardship and loss yield sweet results in this homespun tale of a family's collective efforts to save their farm from the auction block. Sadie's family is thrown into turmoil after a drought destroys all but their sweet potato crop. As the mortgage comes due, it looks like the family will have to sell their beloved property until Mama comes up with the idea that they should sell her sweet potato pies instead. Everyone in the family helps make the pies, which win a blue ribbon and plant the seeds of a lucrative family enterprise. First-time author Lindsey's down-home storytelling quality is charming and Riley-Webb's picture of the "Sweet Potato" quilt recalls Faith Ringgold's use of unique quilt illustrations in *Dinner at Aunt Connie's House* (1993). The artwork's broad, energetic strokes and strong color palette sweep children into this tasty tale, and the included pie recipe makes the experience complete. Terry Glover Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved
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As odd as this might sound, I ordered this book as a surprise present for my girlfriend; this was one of her favorite books to read when she was younger and has said in the past that she wished her baby brother could grow up with a book from her past. This and a romantic dinner out were going to be a small anniversary present to her, but upon opening up the package the morning after it arrived, I found a portion of every page water damaged somehow. The packaging itself was sealed tight and showed no signs of any sort of damage, but the book itself is still moist to the touch even as I am writing this now. I would love to give this a higher rated review; it's not a bad book, but I did not pay for a damaged product. Someone somewhere somehow managed to successfully send damaged goods without catching it; it's not like this is invisible ink we're talking about here...

Delightful book for young children with strong message of family support and innovation. Lovely illustrations which complement the content.

My 2nd grade students loved this book. They connected to the characters & were overjoyed by their success. The teacher's guide that can be found online has great ideas for teachers & parents alike.

Great Book!

EXCELLENT

Sweet Potato Pie is a heartwarming tale of how a family's love for one another and their cooperation helped them through difficult times. Although the story takes place in the early 1900s, it is a timeless tale. Kathleen Lindsey's sense of humor adds just the right spice to Sweet Potato Pie. Young Sadie, the narrator, takes the reader through the joys and travails of American farm life. She shows children had to use their creative gifts to solve problems. The family's love for one another shines through even when the children show their natural spirited nature. A great read for children and an inspiration to grown ups.

What a treat! A delightfully written, beautifully illustrated treasure that will hold a special place on my bookshelf for many years to come. I've already read it to two of my grandchildren, and very successfully used it in a tutoring session with an older child. This lovingly crafted story of love, determination, and family provided a springboard to discussion with my student that proved enlightening for both of us. He has even asked to read it again next session. Bravo, Kathleen Linsey! When can we expect the next?

Sweet Potato Pie by Kathleen D. Lindsey is a delightful book about family connections and cooperation without being sentimental. When a drought ruins all the crops except for the sweet potatoes, it looks as if Mama and Papa will lose the farm. But despite the difficulties they face, Sadie and Jake and the rest of the family help each other to turn this into a sweet success story. Kathleen Lindsey captures the trials and joys of early rural 1900's in a humorous story that all ages will enjoy.

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