



A Registered California Non-Profit Organization
Serving Southern California

The Bakers Neighbor

Study Guide

About the show:

The Bakers Neighbor is a Peruvian folk tale about a stingy baker who tries to charge the villagers for smelling her baking bread.

Manuela, the neighborhood baker, bakes delicious smelling pastries and puts them out for sale each morning. Her neighbor, Pablo, loves to smell the fresh bakery every morning but he never purchases any pastries. This irritates Manuela and feels Pablo should pay for the “stolen” smells. She actually takes his complaint to the town judge who eventually offers a ruling that satisfies all parties.



TOPICS TOUCHED ON IN THE SHOW

- Greed
- Friendship
- Fairness
- Sharing
- Citizenship
- Caring

What is a folk tale?

A folk tale story has its origins in what is called the oral tradition. This means the story was first passed down orally by a storyteller who has made it their own. The key is that it wasn't written down first.

Folk tales are instructive in that they caution listeners about consequences of certain kinds of behaviors or attitudes.

The characters are not complex instead they are stereotypes.

Examples of stereotypes are the thief, the liar, the clever youth, the evil stepmother, etc.

When a folk tale is told, it sounds like the spoken word: directly addressing the reader, use of dialect or slang, etc.

The structure may be

repetitive. Things that happen in threes are common. Repetition of lines is also common and would have been helpful to whoever was memorizing and telling a story in the oral tradition.

Folk
Tales

BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY:

Seeing live theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and it's important to do your job as an audience member well.

Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh! In fact, we encourage you to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Stay seated unless you are asked to move by an adult or a performer.
5. Show appreciation by clapping. Performers love to hear applause—it shows how much you enjoyed it!
6. Have fun! Learn something new!



Character Counts!



During the performance students will be able to recognize the Pillars of Character.

Trustworthiness— Does Pablo really steal from the local baker?

Respect—How do the children respond to the baker when questioned?

Responsibility— Did Pablo run away when he was caught by the baker? What does Pablo do when the judge announces his decision?

Fairness— What did the judge teach the baker about money?

Caring— How did Pablo's friends react when they were able to purchase something from the baker but Pablo wasn't?

Citizenship— What does Pablo do when the judge announces his decision? How did the baker change at the end?

WRITE AN ESSAY!

Neighborhoods are made up of all kinds of people, doing different things with differing points of view. Manuela and Pablo are very different individuals living in the same neighborhood.

OPTION 1: Write a three-paragraph essay using specific examples from the play to

support your answers. In the first two paragraphs, describe in detail Manuela and Pablo's personality. Use the third paragraph to explain how the neighbor's relationship changed

How we interact with each other is what makes character count.

from the beginning of the play to the end and give the reason why.

OPTION 2: Pablo enjoys the small, everyday pleasures that life has to offer. Use specific details from the play to explain what this means. What are some of your small, everyday pleasures in life you enjoy?

QUIZ

Put the following events in the order that they occurred.

___1) Manuela goes to get the judge

___2) The judge teaches Manuela lesson about life

___3) Pablo says good morning to Manuela and then tells him his pies smell great

___4) Carlos and his sister come to buy something from the bakery

Put the list of characters into alphabetical order

- ___ Manuela
- ___ Villagers
- ___ Carlos
- ___ Ramona
- ___ Judge
- ___ Pablo

Synonyms and Antonyms

Elated means the same things as....

- A) move hastily
- B) filled with happiness
- C) to be late
- D) to eat quickly



Grin means the same things as....

- A) run real fast
- B) smooth
- C) smile
- D) frown

Name a synonym for the word shiftless ...

- A) lazy
- B) sleepy
- C) energetic
- D) to stop quickly

Name a synonym for the word aroma ...

- A) silly
- B) worry
- C) nice
- D) smell

Fact or Opinion

Manuela baked the best pies in the entire city

Fact or Opinion

Carlo has a younger sister named Ramona

Fact or Opinion

Pablo was going to the bakery to buy himself a treat

Fact or Opinion

A judge needs to listen carefully to both sides of the story

Fact or Opinion

All neighbors are kind.

Fact or Opinion

Most bakeries have bread, cakes, and rolls for sale

Fact or Opinion

VOCABULARY

Fragrance—aroma; a sweet smell

Miser—someone who doesn't like people, only money

Pleasures—things that please

Privilege—special right or favor

Scowling—looking angry, gloomy, or threatening; frowning

Trial—a formal deciding of a case in a court of law.

SCIENCE—Making sense of the 5 senses

Everyday Pablo stands outside of the bakery smelling the fragrance of the pastries. Is it possible to smell all the flavor out of them?

For the most part, we all have five senses. Sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. This folktale is about "theft" by smelling. Did you know that in order to smell

something, a tiny molecule must float through the air and into your nose? It's true! Everything we smell gives off a very light, easy to evaporate chemical that floats into the air and into your nose.

"It's as if the bakery has burst into a bloom!"

Analyze the following foods by telling what your senses would tell you about the food.

Pizza	Soup
Ice Cream	Bread

Match the sense with part of the body:

Sight	Mouth
Hearing	Nose
Taste	Eyes
Touch	Ears
Smell	Fingers

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The Big Tent Theatre Troupe provides a high quality professional theatrical experience at an affordable price so that all ages can enjoy and learn. We aim to support educating the whole child via curriculum based shows with study guides like this one.

Our performance troupe consists of experienced professional actors, writers, directors and producers from across the Los Angeles area. Each brings their unique talent to the overall performances. Our Board members have an eclectic blend of business, education, and performing arts experience that ensures our mission stays at the forefront.

Our productions are brought right to your school! No field trips! No permission slips to collect! No busing expenses!

Big Tent Theatre Troupe adapts classic literature, folklore and fairy tales into quality professional plays that are appropriate for young audiences, bringing the State Standards and Character Counts Programs alive.

Plan your OWN bakery!

Pretend that you are going to open a new bakery. You want your bakery to be the best one in your state. Fill in the blanks to help you plan how to make your bakery the best.

What products will you sell? _____

What will make your products different or special? _____

What kinds of special services will you offer? _____

Where will your bakery be located and why? _____

Other ideas for your bakery: _____

What will your bakery look like? _____

Draw a floor plan and write a description of your bakery below or on another piece of paper.

