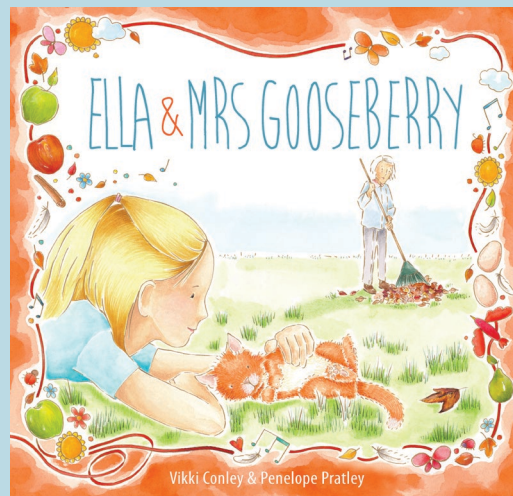




# EK BOOKS TEACHER NOTES & RESOURCES

**Title:** Ella and Mrs Gooseberry  
**Subtitle:** Discovering What Love Looks Like  
**Author:** Vikki Conley  
**Illustrator:** Penelope Pratley  
**Publisher:** EK Books  
**Price:** \$24.95  
**ISBN:** 9781925335255  
**Publication date:** 1 August 2019  
**Audience age:** 5-7 years  
**Key Curriculum Areas:** English, Health and Physical Education, The Arts



## SYNOPSIS:

Grumpy old Mrs Gooseberry from next door has lost her love. 'I didn't know you could lose love,' says Ella, her young neighbour. So she begins her quest to find out what love looks like and how she can help Mrs Gooseberry to rediscover it.

Her mother says love is warm, like a home-cooked pie. Her teacher says it's like lanterns in the night, sparkly and bright. Perhaps though, for Mrs Gooseberry, love might look like a little kitten.

*Ella and Mrs Gooseberry* is a heart-warming picture book about a child's understanding of love and how it makes you feel. It's a story of community and the ripple effect of selfless giving, ideal for creating opportunities for discussion about kindness, empathy and helping others.

## THEMES:

Community, empathy, giving, caring for others, kindness, emotions, love, change.

## SELLING POINTS:

- Helps children to talk about emotions and how love feels in their bodies.
- Encourages kids to realise the importance of giving to others without expecting anything in return.
- Promotes the importance of community and engaging with those around us.
- Provides an opportunity to talk about giving and kindness as an expression of love.
- Whimsical storyline engages children, with gorgeous illustrations in a vibrant and enticing palette.



### WRITING STYLE:

A lyrical, heart-felt text written in prose, with frequent use of figurative language, particularly similes. It is a sweet, curious and thought-provoking text that uses a repetitive 'call and response' style through the middle of the story to engage young readers, and stimulate thinking about what love looks like.

### ILLUSTRATION STYLE:

The illustrations for *Ella & Mrs Gooseberry* are inspired by the details of everyday life. There are two styles of illustration. There are the images that reflect real life happenings; these are quiet illustrations showing Ella's life and Ella is questioning the adults in her life about love. Then there are the colourful spreads full of joy and colour as love embraces the page in imagined shapes and colour.

### AUTHOR MOTIVATION:

Vikki was inspired to write *Ella & Mrs Gooseberry* after watching her two young children discover and understand different aspects of love. 'Their first understandings of love were 'hugs and kisses' from Mum and Dad. Sometimes they would describe how this made them felt in surprising and unique ways,' says Vikki.

She wrote *Ella & Mrs Gooseberry* because she believes love is a critically important theme for young children. She also believes that love is the basis for empathy and community connectiveness. 'As our children grow older, we've been exploring with them the issues of kindness and giving, and how these actions can also be seen as expressions of love,' says Vikki.

Vikki also wants to support the concept of "community" through the idea of love – that it goes beyond your home, that it comes in many forms, that everyone can find it, even if at times it may appear momentarily lost.

Vikki hopes that *Ella & Mrs Gooseberry* can also support classroom activities around emotions. She believes that encouraging children to label their feelings and to describe how each emotion feels in their bodies, is very important for self-awareness and self-regulation.

In classrooms and therapy rooms the emotions are often about anger, sadness or being happy – Vikki wondered how 'love' might be explained and felt for different people. And hoped that this book might encourage children and families to describe their love for each other in some delightful and creative ways!



## AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND:

### Vikki Conley, Author

Vikki has worked as a professional writer, with diverse communities in Africa, Asia and Australia, for over 20 years. She is one of the most prolific emerging children's writers, with five picture books being released within the next 18 months. Vikki is an intrepid traveller, nature lover and creative all-rounder.

Inspired by nature and her country/seagoing childhood, Vikki writes and shares stories that celebrate the spirit of wonder, adventure and freedom that she wishes every child could enjoy. Her childhood was filled with adventure in the wilderness — riding her pony in the Australian bush, leaping from her family's wooden boat into the ocean, and seeing the world from the top of mountains.

Vikki loves sharing wonderful stories for minds that wonder as the creator and curator of the popular children's literature social media pages, Courageous Pages. In her spare time, Vikki does cartwheels with her two children and husband, and searches for platypus in the rivers near her home in Eltham, Victoria, Australia.

### Penelope Pratley, Illustrator

Penelope Pratley is an emerging illustrator and writer. She is also an art teacher. The Art Garden, written by Penny Harrison and published by EK Books in 2018, was her debut as an illustrator. This year Penelope has two more books being published and she is currently working on more books to be published in 2020.

Penelope spends her days creating wonder one illustration at a time. Using watercolour, ink, pencil and mixed media, her particular focus is creating picture books. She adores stories for children and owns far too many pencil cases. Living with a surfer, an inventor, a ballerina, three chickens, a rabbit, and an ancient guinea pig, and a reduced cat, her heart is never short of inspiration. She only emerges from her garden studio to hunt for chocolate freckles, seek sunshine and take care of her beautiful family. If you can't find her at home, experimenting with new techniques to enhance her illustration style, she'll be at the back of her local bookshop in the children's section.



## INTERVIEW:

### AUTHOR

#### What is the inspiration for this story?

Love, and the way that different people feel this emotion in different ways.  
Community, and how it needs love to hold it together.  
My children, and how they each see and feel the world in unique ways.  
My mother, who sadly passed away just before I wrote the story.

#### What was the most rewarding part of this project?

Working as a team with the publisher and the illustrator to bring my debut picture book to life. One of the first pieces of artwork I saw from Penelope Pratley's interpretation of my text was the dance spread, with the vibrant purple swirling across the page. Seeing this concept unfold beneath Penelope's brushstrokes was very special indeed.

#### What was the most challenging part of this project?

Waiting for it to be completed! It takes nearly 2 years for a picture book to be created. There are many layers to the process – writing, editing, designing, and an illustrator sketching, editing and painting 32 pages of stunning finished artwork, then printing and distribution. It really is an amazing collaborative process to create a wonderful art-piece for children.

### ILLUSTRATOR

#### What media do you use to create your illustrations? Briefly describe your process.

Penelope uses a pencil outline and then fills it using watercolour paint. In the illustrations for *Ella and Mrs Gooseberry* tone was added after the watercolour paint had dried by shading with a brown pencil. Penelope's favourite part of the images for *Ella & Mrs Gooseberry* were creating the big washes of colour and adding the 'floating' elements as Ella discovers what love looks like to the different people in her life.

#### What was the most rewarding part of this project?

The most rewarding part for me of creating any book is hearing that the author is happy with my interpretation of the story. Being trusted to bring someone else's story to life is a big undertaking. I especially love that Vikki's story has such a heartfelt message about kindness and, through the illustrations, we see that love comes in many colours and patterns.

#### What was the most challenging part of this project?

The most challenging part of illustrating *Ella & Mrs Gooseberry* was ensuring I captured how grumpy and lonely Mrs Gooseberry is at the start of the story, and showing her joy by using lots of colour when she finds a way to open her heart to love again.



## TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES:

Please find below both oral/language comprehension, as well as, art/craft activities. An activity pack can be found at the end of this document for art and craft inspiration.

### Initial Reading - Whole Class

#### Before Reading

- Show the cover to the class and ask students what they think the book might be about.
- What do the colours and the overall design tell them about the story?
- Do the endpapers tell them anything further about the story?
- What type of story do they think it will be?
- Read the back cover blurb. What type of story do they think it will be now?

#### After Reading

- Discuss the author's reason for writing the text and the message she wanted to convey.
- Have children interview Ella and Mrs Gooseberry to find out how they felt at different stages of the story.
- Talk about what love is and the different expressions of love.
- Talk about what this emotion feels like in the body.
- Talk about what memories (visuals) this emotion brings to mind.
- Discuss family and loved ones (mum, dad, grandparents, pets, teddies) and ask children to consider the things they do together to express love.

### Classroom Ideas:

(BLM sheets could be laminated and used for small group activities or photocopied for individual use.)

### ENGLISH

- Oral language and comprehension questions (See BLM 1)
- Reading comprehension multiple choice questions (See BLM 2)
- Writing a book review (See BLM 3)
- Sequencing activities (See BLM 4)
- Brainstorming other words to be used (See BLM 5)
- Try creating an acrostic poem, using the words LOVE, KINDNESS or COMMUNITY.
- Compose a poem about 'What love looks like'.
- Identify and discuss choice of words and repetition in the text.
- Write a story about 'what love looks like to you', or 'something that makes you feel loved'



### HEALTH

- Discuss how Ella feels when she first watches Mrs Gooseberry in her front yard, and then her backyard. Talk about what Ella could, or could not have done after having those feelings.
- Discuss how Mrs Gooseberry feels before and after she receives the kitten. Discuss how this is shown in the illustrations.
- Discuss why this change happens for Mrs Gooseberry?
- How does the change in Mrs Gooseberry affect everyone else on the street?
- Discuss the responses that Ella's mum, teacher, dance teacher and grandmother give her to the question, "what does love look like?" Discuss how this is shown in the illustrations.
- Brainstorm with the students how they would answer the question, "what does love look like"?
- Have the students draw a picture of their answer to the above. Then, pass it around and have other students add a positive word that describe the drawing/scene, or how it makes them feel.
- Encourage students to brainstorm situations of when they have felt sad, unhappy or lonely. Write them on cards. In small groups discuss the situations on the cards and decide on acts of kindness that could help make that person feel better. Write or draw an action/outcome for the situation.

### THE ARTS

- Discuss the two art forms that appear in the book.
- In small groups, create a play to act out some of the situations that were written on cards and discussed. Encourage students to use props, costume, pieces of fabric and dance. It could even be a silent play.
- Make paper lanterns like those Ella's teacher was hanging.
- Make a 'love tree' with students using an icy-pole stick standing up in a piece of plasticine on a square of cardboard. Cut four strips of colored paper so that one is shortest, second is longer, and so on. They will form the branches of the tree. It will look like the shape of a Christmas tree. Have children write four people in their life who are great at making them feel happy during times when they are sad. Write one name on each strip, then glue them onto the stick, centred and graduated from shortest at top, to longest at bottom.
- Create a card for a loved one that features a heart. Fold A4 paper in half longways (landscape). This will be the basis of the card. Place a heart that has been cut out of another piece of paper in the centre of the front of the card. Secure it with a small amount of masking tape (it will be removed later). Either using fingers, or cotton wool balls, daub paint of two different colours around the edge of the heart (choose some colors from the book!). Also fill the area around the heart with daubs, all the way to the edge of the card. Wait for paint to dry, then remove centre heart. Write a message in the middle for loved one.



## TEACHER NOTES: Ella and Mrs Gooseberry

- Make a heart pendant/mobile from air dry clay. Roll a small ball of clay flat, then use a heart shaped cookie cutter to cut out the heart, or shape it by hand. Press a hole in the top of the heart using the blunt end of a thin pencil or the end of a paint brush. A ribbon, wool or string can be threaded later as the hanger. Collect very thin twigs and things from the garden that have great shapes and textures, like seed pods and gum nuts. These can be used to imprint patterns and textures into the heart. Or they can be pressed in (use a little PVA if you want to secure them permanently) to create a nature art piece. When dry, thread the cord through the hole and tie. The hearts can either be hung all together in the classroom (eg from an old branch) to make a stunning display, or take home individually as necklaces or window hangs.

## ORAL LANGUAGE & COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Page Turn	Questions	Check
1	What is Mrs Gooseberry thinking?	
2	Why does Mrs Gooseberry seem more happy?	
3	What is Mrs Gooseberry sad about?	
4	What do you think Ella will do next?	
5	Why do you think Ella's mum says love looks like a pie?	
6	Why do you think Ella's teacher says love looks like a lantern?	
7	Why does Ella wait for everyone to leave?	
8	Why do you think Ella's grandmother says love looks like a dream?	
9	What are some of the words that have been used to describe what love looks?	
	Do you think these are positive or negative words? Why?	
	What do you think Mrs Gooseberry is thinking?	
10	Why has Ella given Mrs Gooseberry the kitten?	
11	Why do you think Mrs Gooseberry is humming?	
12	Does Mrs Gooseberry's shawl look like something that has been already mentioned in the book?	
	What does it mean to "have a sparkle in your eye"?	
13	Why is Mrs Gooseberry doing things she has never done before?	
14	Can you think of words that would describe how Mrs Gooseberry might be feeling?	
	How do you think Ella is feeling?	

## READING COMPREHENSION (MULTIPLE CHOICE)

1. Ella loves playing with a ...
  - a) Guinea pig
  - b) Soccer ball
  - c) Basketball
  
2. Is Mrs Gooseberry grumpy in her ...
  - a) House
  - b) Front yard
  - c) Backyard
  
3. Ella's mum says that Mrs Gooseberry's love has ...
  - a) Been forgotten
  - b) Been lost
  - c) Gone forever
  
4. Ella asks people ...
  - a) What does love feel like
  - b) What does love look like
  - c) How does it feel to love
  
5. Ella's teacher says love looks like ...
  - a) Lanterns in the night
  - b) Lanterns hanging from the ceiling
  - c) Colorful lanterns
  
6. Ella gives Mrs Gooseberry the kitten because...
  - a) She thinks Mrs Gooseberry wants it
  - b) Her grandmother wants her to
  - c) She thinks it will make Mrs Gooseberry happy



**SEQUENCING ACTIVITY**

**Cut out and order the sentences.**

**Ella gives a kitten to Mrs Gooseberry.**

**Ella speaks to her grandmother.**

**Ella cooks with her mother.**

**Mrs Gooseberry dances in her kitchen.**

**Mrs Gooseberry falls asleep with the kitten.**

## VOCABULARY

Can you think of any other words that could be used instead of slammed?

Can you think of any other words that could be used instead of sparkly?

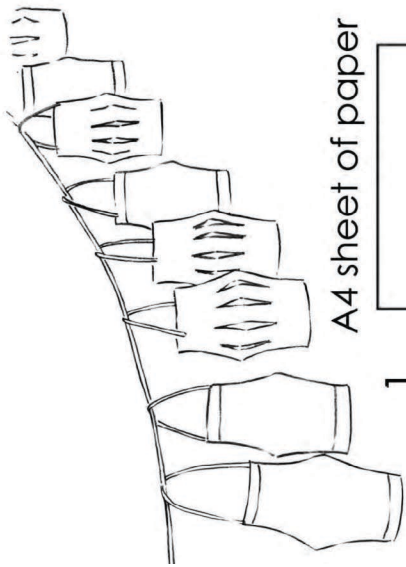
Can you think of any other words that could be used instead of grumpy?

Can you think of any other words that could be used instead of wondered?

Can you think of any other words that could be used instead of crouched?

Can you think of any other words that could be used instead of love?

# MAKE A PAPER LANTERN WITH ELLA'S TEACHER

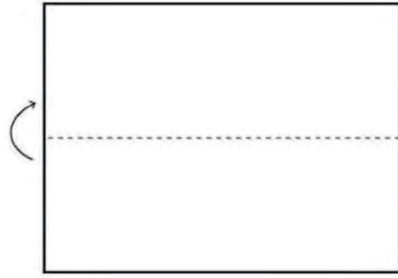


A4 sheet of paper



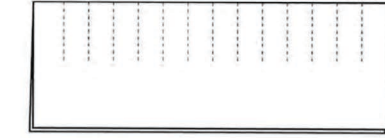
1

Cut off strip to use as a handle - place to one side



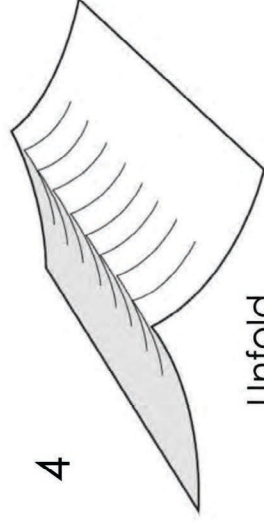
2

Fold in half



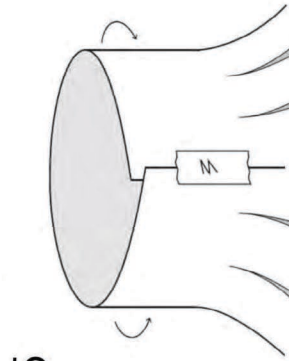
3

Cut strips as indicated from the fold



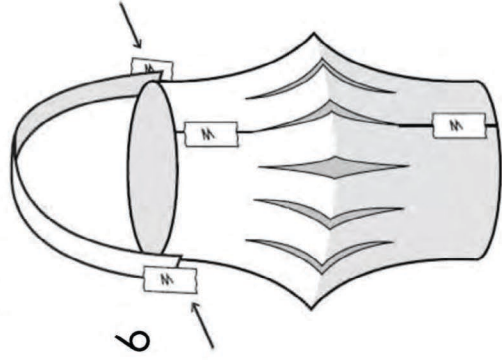
4

Unfold



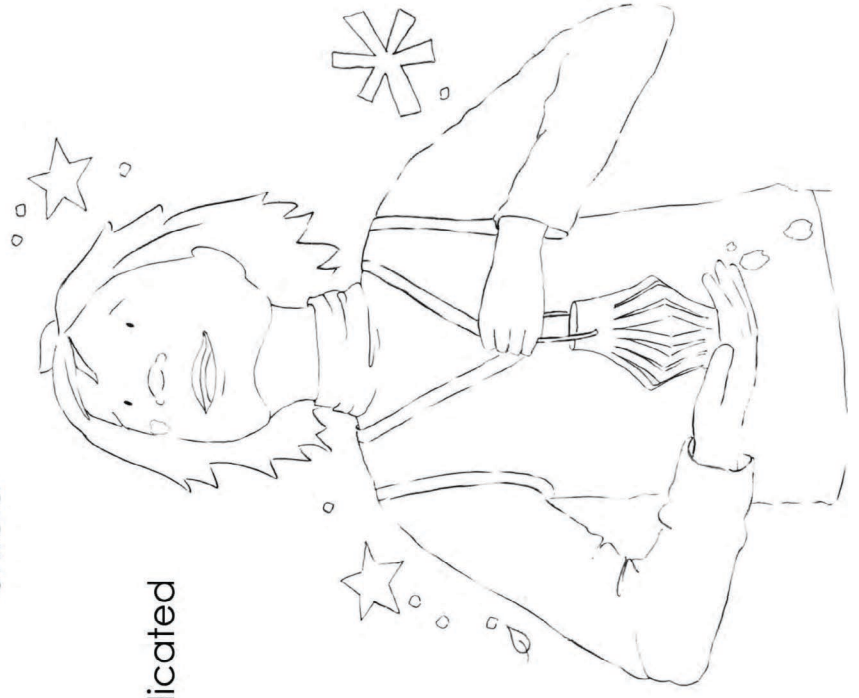
5

Wrap paper around in a cylinder and join using tape, glue, or staple



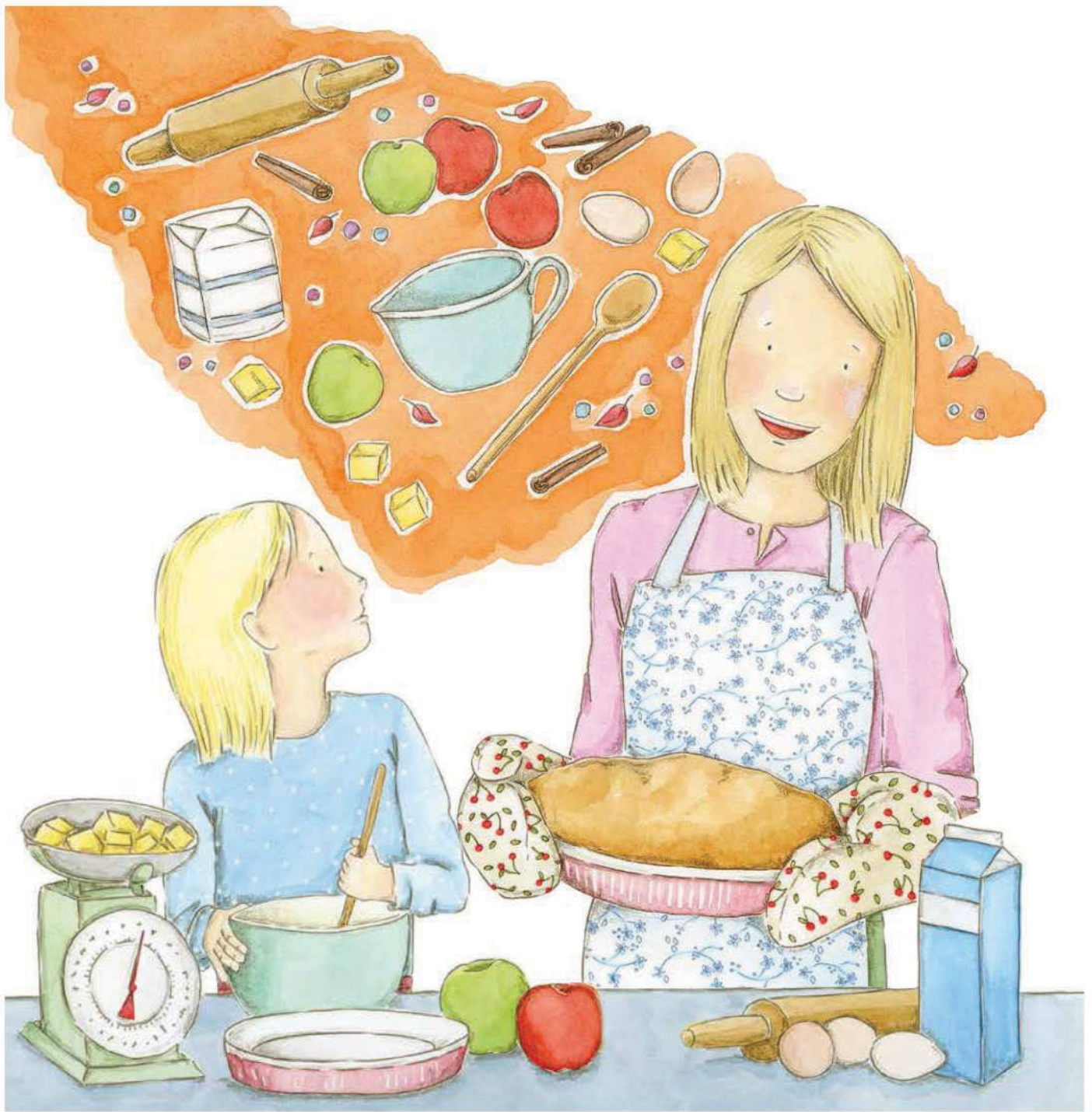
6

Attach handle



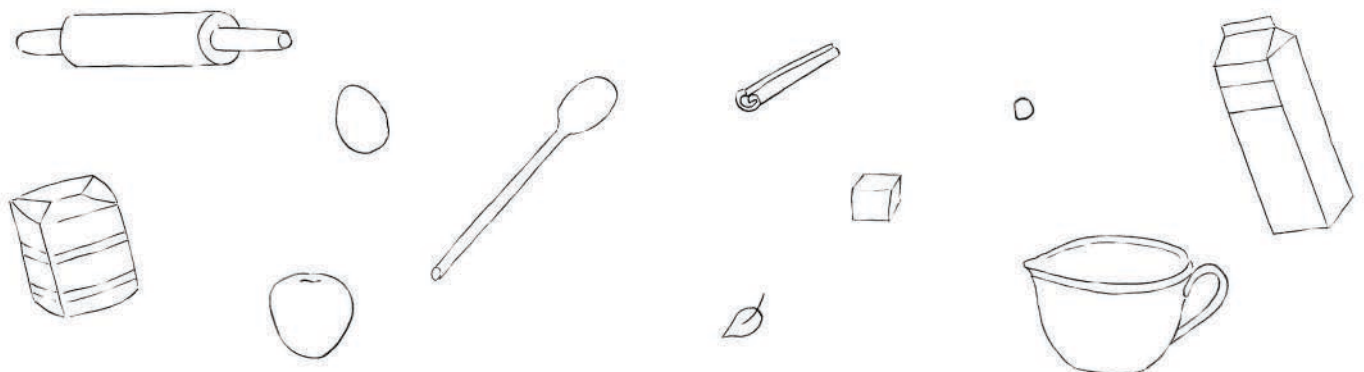
# COLOUR IN MRS GOOSEBERRY





## COUNTING WITH ELLA?

How many of each object below can you count in the picture above?



# ELLA & HER GRANDMOTHER SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot 8 differences between the two pictures below?



# ELLA'S APPLE PIE

Cooking with children is a fun and this Apple pie recipe can be made for everyone you love.

"IT WILL MAKE YOUR TUMMY WARM FROM THE INSIDE"

Serves 6 using a 35mm pie tin

## INGREDIENTS

- 4 large Granny Smith Apples peeled and sliced thinly
- 2 sheets of puff pastry
- 1/2 cup brown sugar divided into 2 x 1/4 cups
- A large dollop of honey
- 1 teaspoon of cinnamon or mixed spice
- 2 tablespoons of plain flour
- 50 grams of butter in cubes
- Squeeze of lemon juice



## DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius
- Line the pie tin with one sheet of puff pastry ensuring it comes up over the edges of the tin
- Peel and thinly slice the apples
- Place 1/2 of the apples in the tin
- Sprinkle the apple with 1/4 cup brown sugar, a large squeeze of honey and 1/2 a teaspoon of cinnamon
- Top the tin up with the rest of the apples and the rest of the sugar (1/4 cup), plain flour and the butter cubes
- Sprinkle the contents with lemon juice
- Cover the top with another sheet of puff pastry
- Use a fork to crimp the edges around the tin
- Use a little more brown sugar to sprinkle on the top and cut steam vents in the pastry
- Pop into the oven and bake for one hour on 180 degrees Celsius. It's a good idea to put a baking tray on the rack below your pie in case the filling spills over during cooking. Serve with cream or vanilla ice cream.
- Remember to make it with love.

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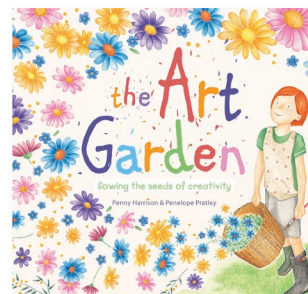
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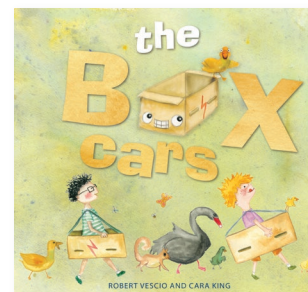


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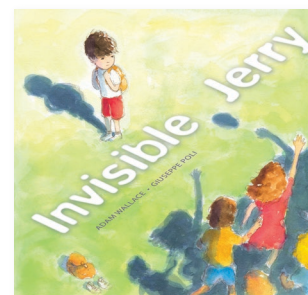


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