

Everything on a Waffle

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written by Polly Horvath  
Farrar Straus Giroux, NY, 2001

This Newbery Honor Book by a Canadian author is such a treat to read! Filled with the most vivid, eclectic characters, *Everything on a Waffle* takes the reader on a wild adventure with Primrose Squarb. As the book begins, her mom sails off in the bay to look for Primrose's dad during a storm. Neither parent returns, although Primrose refuses to believe that they are dead. She proclaims that her parents' survival is just something she knows without reason, and she questions many people about having had that same uncanny sense. Her adventures lead her from staying with a mothball scented elderly lady, to life with a bachelor uncle whom she has never met, to a foster home of eccentric parents. The ironies and coincidences are numerous throughout the chapters. And, students will be totally surprised at the ending!

One unique feature of each chapter is a recipe at the end. Even the recipes have a wonderful rich voice of the young character.

This is another book, like many others that I've recommended, that I loved as an adult. The philosophical views of life's mysteries and the exploration of human nature were refreshing. There's much food for thought! Hope you'll enjoy this with your class!

## **Guided Reading Block**

Genre: fiction.

Symbols – Look for symbols in the text: the wool sweaters, everything put on a waffle, the mothballs, etc.

Character Development – The characters are rich and vivid. Spend time exploring these questions:

How is each character developed? What can you find out about each character through what the character says, does, and what others say about him/her? What does each character lend to the development of the plot? Answer these questions about:

Primrose Squarp  
Miss Perfidy  
Uncle Jack  
Miss Honeycut  
Miss Bowzer  
Evie and Bert

## Sheriff Peters

### Discussions -

- Explore the lessons learned by each character in the story. What does each character represent about human nature?
- List the recipes and the connection that each has to the story.
- What does Primrose learn about herself and others in regards to her belief that you sometimes know something deep in your heart without reason?
- Discuss how different characters face and solve problems in the story: loss of memory, business loss, loss of parents, etc.
- What are the religious overtones of Primrose's message that there are some things that we know deep in our hearts often without reason?

### **Self-Selected Reading Block**

This book would make a wonderful read-aloud during Self-Selected Reading Block! I think students will beg you not to stop each day!

### **Writing Block**

Voice – Use several paragraphs from the story or perhaps a whole page of text that you've copied onto a transparency. Cite examples of how the author achieved the voice that she was able to achieve. Underline examples and make a list of them to keep in students' folders, such as: dialogue, stream of conscience writing, recipes, etc.

Character Development – Look closely at the physical descriptions of the characters that Horvath portrays. How does she paint such a vivid picture in our minds? What can we learn from her that we might try in our writing?