



STORYTIME ACTIVITY KIT

Includes

- Age-appropriate Discussion Questions
- Coloring page
- A copy of the honey cake recipe from the book
- A 1921 jazz music playlist

The Sweetest Taste, by award-winning author Sara Holly Ackerman, helps children explore the story's themes of family, traditions, and the joy of learning.

Perfect for the Jewish New Year and the back-to-school season, this discussion guide will help sprout meaningful conversations about culture, history, and the importance of education. The book's backmatter, including historical notes and a honey cake recipe, offers fun opportunities to continue learning together.

Discussion Questions

Eva lives in New Jersey a long time ago, in 1921. What do you think was different about her life? What is something that is the same as your life today?

What are some new things Eva learns in the story? What is something new that you have learned recently?

Eva likes to help her papa. How does she help him? How do you help the grown-ups in your family?

Eva's papa says that "learning is sweet." What do you think he means? Can you think of a time when learning something new made you feel happy or proud?

In this story, honey reminds Eva that learning is sweet. Can you think of other symbols? For example, a heart can mean love, and a rainbow can remind us of hope. What is a symbol that is special to you?

Eva gets honey cake before she starts learning. Some Jewish families also eat apples dipped in honey on Rosh Hashanah to wish for a sweet new year. Does your family have a special food for birthdays, holidays, or other celebrations? What is it, and why is it special?

Bonus Questions!

- Which part of the story was your favorite? Why?
- If you could taste "the sweetness of learning," what do you think it would taste like?
- What are you most excited to learn about this year?
- What is your favorite thing to learn in class?

Let's color!



LEARNING
IS SWEET

HONEY CAKE RECIPE

MAKES ONE LARGE CAKE OR TWO SMALL CAKES

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 ½ cups honey
- ½ cup strong brewed coffee
- ¼ cup vegetable oil (not olive)
- 3 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
(or more to taste)
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
(or more to taste)
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
(or more to taste)
- 1 ½ cups walnuts (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. Line two 5x9 inch loaf pans or one 11x16 inch cake pan with parchment paper or grease with vegetable oil and dust with flour.
3. Beat eggs in a large mixing bowl.
4. Add sugar gradually, continuing to beat until creamy.
5. Blend honey, brewed coffee, and oil into the mixture.
6. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and spices.
7. Gradually blend the dry ingredients into the egg mixture.
8. Fold in walnuts if using.
9. Fill prepared pan(s) and bake at 350°F (175°C) for up to 1 hour and 15 minutes for one large cake or up to one hour for two small ones or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean.
10. Cool on a cake rack.



1921 Playlist

In 1921, Papa's music store would have sold popular records of the era, including ragtime, big band, blues, jazz, opera, and classical music. Today you can listen to many recordings from 1921 on the Library of Congress website. Below is a sample of what is available. You can visit loc.gov, select "Audio Recordings," and enter additional search terms to find more.

12th Street rag

Bowman, Euday L, and Imperial Marimba Band. Prf. *12th Street rag*. Orange, N.J.: Edison, 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/00694040/>.

Habanera

Bizet, Georges, Josef Pasternak, and Sophie Braslau. *Habanera*. 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/jukebox-133941/>.

Home Again Blues

Akst, Harry, et al. *Home Again Blues*. 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/jukebox-40650/>.

In the Little Red School House

Wilson, Al, et al. *In the Little Red School House*. 1922. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/00694056/.

Saturday

Brooks, Harry, Phil Ohman, and Victor Arden. *Saturday*. 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/jukebox-41863/>.

Say It With Music

Berlin, Irving, Paul Whiteman Orchestra, and Paul Whiteman. *Say It With Music*. 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/jukebox-41764>.

Scherzo in E flat minor

Salvi, Alberto, and Alberto Salvi. *Scherzo in E flat minor*. 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/jukebox-40819/>.

Second hand Rose

Whiteman, Paul, et al. *Second hand Rose*. 1921. Audio. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/jukebox-42189/>

We highly recommend creating your own playlist to go along with *The Sweetest Taste* storytime!

