Cupcakes

Story by Laura Burton Rice
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Granddad said, “I love to make cupcakes.”

Deena got bowls, spoons, a cup, and the cake tin.

Granddad read the list: “Two eggs, milk, and butter.”
Deena’s mom had a store. One cold, rainy Saturday in October, Fran, Jim, and Jack visited Deena and her mom at their store.

Deena said, “Let’s bake cupcakes!”
Jack said, “I HATE to bake.”
“Have you ever baked cupcakes, Jack?” asked Fran.
“No,” said Jack.
“It is fun,” said Deena. “Granddad can help us.”
Fran said, “Deena and I like to eat the stuff we bake. Do you like cupcakes? We can eat the cupcakes we bake.”
Jack said, “I LIKE that plan!”
Deena asked, “Granddad, can you help us make cupcakes?”
Granddad grinned and picked up his cane.
“I love to make cupcakes!” he said.
Jack nodded and said, “And I love to EAT cupcakes!”
Granddad led the way into the kitchen.

Deena got a bowl, spoons, a cup, and the cake tin. Then Granddad read the list: “Two eggs, milk, and butter.”

Jim got the eggs. Fran got the milk. Jack got the butter. “We have all that we need to bake,” said Granddad.
Grändad put the cupcake mix in a bowl.

Granddad said, “Jim, you can add the eggs.”

“O.K.,” Jim nodded. Jim tossed in the two eggs, shells and all!

Granddad said, “No egg shells! Shells make a mess.”
The eggs had cracked in the bowl.

Jack stuck a spoon in the bowl. He picked up bits of shell.
Deena asked, “Can I mix it up?”
Granddad said, “Not until we put in the . . .”
“MILK!” said Fran.
Jack picked up the milk and dumped it in the bowl.
“STOP!” said Granddad, but it was too late.
A lot of milk was in the bowl. Jack looked sad.
“It’s O.K., Jack,” said Granddad.
Fran said, “Jim, you can butter the cupcake tin.”
Jim put a lot of butter in the tin.
Granddad grinned.
“No, Jim! You rub just a little butter in all the cups,” said Granddad.
“Fran, please help Jim butter the tin.”
Granddad helped Deena put the batter in the cupcake tin.

“Let’s put the cupcakes in the oven,” said Granddad. “We can clean up,” said Deena. “The cupcakes must bake.”

All the kids helped clean up the mess.
Mom came in and said, “Mmmmmm! The cupcakes smell grand!”

Granddad pulled out the tin and put the cupcakes on a plate.

The cupcakes were flat! The kids looked sad.

“IT’s O.K.,” said Mom. “Flat cupcakes are still good cupcakes.”
Granddad winked and said, “Sometimes that is what happens when too much milk is added to cupcake mix, but I bet they’ll taste just as good.”

The kids all ate a flat cupcake. Granddad and Mom ate cupcakes. Jack said, “Flat cupcakes taste good! I do not hate to bake. I LOVE it! I am glad I can bake cupcakes!”
1. What did Granddad do?
   a. He had a nap.
   b. He helped the kids bake cupcakes.

2. Name one way the kids made a mess.

3. Why were the cupcakes flat?

4. How did the kids feel at the end?
Reading Roots, Level 3

Cupcakes

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Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by John Stuart.

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