

CLASSROOM RESOURCES



Written by
Lana Spasevski

Illustrated by
Joanie Stone

Suitable for ages
5 to 7

Themes

Being creative
Solving problems
Showing kindness

CONTENTS OF THIS PACK

- Overview of *A Spoonful of Sadie*
- Key themes
- Questions for before we begin reading
- Discussion points in key curriculum areas: Comprehension, Literacy, and Social & Emotional Development
- Final reflections
- Three activities

DESCRIPTION

Say hello to Sadie ... a superstar baker with a big heart!

In this book, Sadie needs to

- keep a match day promise for her soccer team.
- create a science experiment that's also yummy!
- invent a surprise dessert for her family BBQ.

But Sadie's sweet intentions do not always go to plan! She doesn't have enough match day treats for everyone. Her science project is a fizzy failure. And the surprise ingredient for her BBQ dessert goes missing!

Can Sadie find a way to save the day? In these three sprinkle-filled stories (complete with recipes!) the unstoppable Sadie shows that any problem can be solved with generosity, kindness and, of course, a delicious baked treat.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lana LOVES writing kids' books just as much as Sadie LOVES sprinkles! Her writing is endlessly inspired by her young daughters, who she lovingly calls her little book butterflies. Lana spends many hours treasure hunting in bookshops and attempting messy home bakes. Before Lana started writing kids' books, she worked on creating brand stories for some of Australia's most favourite products, including developing ideas for new baking products. Now, she hopes to inspire a love of storytelling through her books and sensationally sweet characters.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Joanie Stone was born and raised in Virginia, where she still lives today with her husband and young daughter. She spends her days painting in her light-filled studio in the country, surrounded by nature. She uses her background in traditional hand-drawn animation to bring life and movement to her characters and fills her images with textures reminiscent of children's books from the past. She hopes her images will inspire kids to pick up a pencil and create their own worlds through stories and art.

Find this book at our website: <https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/a-spoonful-of-sadie/>

KEY THEMES

Being creative

Sadie loves to join her dad in baking delicious sweet treats. But Sadie doesn't just follow her dad's recipes ... she makes up her own, too! Sadie shows creativity through coming up with new recipes that she knows her friends, family and community will love. And she also demonstrates creativity in solving the problems that she encounters along the way. This book is a great tool for discussing the meaning of creativity with young children, showing them that it can mean many things and that everyone is creative at heart.

Solving problems

Despite Sadie's best intentions, something tends to go wrong when she's baking a special treat. But while Sadie always has a wobble when her problems arise, she will also always think of an innovative solution to fix the problems and save the day. Seeing Sadie become upset shows that everyone can feel discouraged when something goes wrong, but seeing her solve the problems shows that everyone can turn things around if they have a positive attitude and a little creativity. This book is a beautiful demonstration of thinking about the different ways that problems can be solved and of approaching problems with optimism.

Showing kindness

Sadie is a kind child who always shows compassion for other people. She loves baking but she also loves being generous, so she combines the two! We see Sadie making treats for her soccer team, creating a moon-themed treat for her new friend Jax, and inventing a new dessert with her neighbour who is missing her family. This book can be used to discuss the many ways that we can show kindness, compassion and generosity to each other, and how we can use our skills to do good in the world.

BEFORE WE BEGIN READING

- Have a look at the front cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- Why do you think the book is called '*A Spoonful of Sadie*'? Is there a spoon on the cover?
- Describe the character (Sadie) on the cover. Does she look like someone you would want to be friends with?
- Sadie has a passion for something. Can you guess what it will be? What clues suggest this?
- Is this the type of book you'd like to read usually?



DISCUSSION IN KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Comprehension

General

- Sadie has a coloured chalk streak in her hair. Is the colour a) pink, b) blue or c) violet?
- Sadie's dad is a baker. What is Sadie's mum's job?
- What is Sadie's dog's name?
- What is Dad's nickname for Sadie?
- Who are Amber and Arlo and where do they live?
- Amber and Arlo are twins. Would you say they are very alike or very different? Describe some ways that they are alike and different to each other.
- In each of the stories, the ingredients that Sadie uses seem to talk to her. Are the ingredients actually talking to Sadie or is she imagining it? What type of things do the ingredients say? How does Sadie respond to them?
- Sadie comes across a few problems in this book. Does she become upset when things feel hard or go wrong? Can you find some moments in the book where this happens? Describe how Sadie looks and speaks in these moments.
- Sometimes Sadie can be a bit messy when she is baking! Can you find some moments in the book when Sadie's ingredients are on her hair, face or clothes?
- Sadie loves inventing new treats and coming up with her own ideas. Do you like to create new things too? What do you like to create? *See Activity 1 for a creative activity.*



Story-specific

- In Story 1, Sadie plans to make a special match day treat for her soccer team. Sadie forgets to make enough treats for the opposing team. What does Sadie do to solve this problem?
- In Story 1, Sadie gives her friends Amber and Arlo jobs to do in the kitchen. What are their jobs? Do they keep the same jobs for the whole story?
- In Story 1, what is the name of the new friend Sadie shares her treats with? Does she have anything in common with Sadie?
- In Story 2, why are Sadie, Amber and Arlo making a volcano-shaped cake? What are the two special ingredients that make the volcano explode?
- In Story 2, Jax uses baking ingredients to show everyone how a moon crater is formed. What ingredients does he use?
- In Story 2, why doesn't Jax want a slice of Sadie's volcano cake? What does Sadie do to help Jax feel included?

- In Story 3, what has Sadie decided to make for her family's summer barbeque? What makes it extra special this year?
- In Story 3, Mrs Garcia tells Sadie about her favourite dessert from the Philippines. What is it called and what is it made of?
- In Story 3, Sadie doesn't have any blueberries to make her fruity surprise twist. How does she solve this problem and who helps her?



Literacy

- In Story 1, Sadie 'digs a spoon into the first batch of sticky crackle mixture'. The word 'digs' is a verb and it means the same as the word 'scoops' here. Look through Stories 2 and 3 and find some more verbs. Can you think of other verbs that could have been used in these moments? *See Activity 2 for a creative activity.*
- In Story 1, Sadie and Amber talk about the importance of 'sportspersonship'. What does this word mean and how does Sadie show sportspersonship to other players?
- Sadie's mum is described as 'super brave'. These are adjectives. Can you think of adjectives to describe the other characters: Sadie, Dad, Butter, Amber and/or Arlo? *See Activity 3 for a creative activity.*
- In Story 2, Jax throws a rock to show how a moon crater is formed. The rock makes a sound: 'SMACK!' This word is onomatopoeia, which means that when you say it aloud, it sounds like the noise itself. There are some other types of onomatopoeia in this story. Can you find them?
- In Story 3, 'Sadie's heart thumps like a _____'. What does Sadie's heart thump like?
- Can you find some other fun descriptions that use the word 'like'?
- Sadie often thinks to herself. Can you find some moments when Sadie is thinking to herself. Does the writing look different to elsewhere in the book?
- Arlo sometimes speaks like a zombie. Can you find some of Arlo's zombie-speech?

Social and Emotional Development

- When Sadie is happy or excited, her eyes sparkle and she smiles. Can you find some moments in the book when Sadie is unhappy. How does she look in these moments?
- Does Sadie stay unhappy for long? Why not? What does this tell us about Sadie and her attitude to problems?
- Amber knows Sadie very well and can help Sadie feel better when Sadie feels upset. What types of things can you say to someone when they are upset?



- Sadie tells Arlo that he ‘can’t have cake for nothing’. What does Sadie mean when she says this? Do you ever ask your friends to help you with things? How do you thank them in return?
- Can you find all the times that Sadie feels happy in each story? How do you feel when you read that Sadie is happy and excited?
- When Sadie is baking, it is never just so that *she* has something nice to eat. Why else does Sadie bake the wonderful treats in this book? What does this say about Sadie?

FINAL REFLECTIONS

- Which was your favourite Sadie story in this book? Why?
- Amber and Arlo are Sadie’s best friends. Who are your best friends?
- Do you bake at home? If you do, who helps you?
- If Sadie was your best friend, what would you bake for her?
- What fun things do you and your friends like to do together?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?



ACTIVITY ONE: CREATE YOUR PERFECT TREAT!

Sadie invents sweet treats, like a volcano made of marshmallow and chocolate! Why don't you design a baked treat, too? You might like to think of someone to give your invention to. For example, your grandma might love chocolate and oranges, so you are going to invent a new type of chocolate orange biscuit just for her. You could draw the ingredients and the finished product below!

My Sweet Treat ...

Drawn by _____

ACTIVITY TWO: FIND THE VERBS!

Verbs are words that describe actions. There are lots of verbs in *A Spoonful of Sadie*! An example is 'skips'. Many of the verbs in this book are also written in larger, different fonts. Ask students to circle all the verbs below. For a more collaborative exercise, ask them to complete this task in pairs. Alternatively, pick a chapter in the book and talk about the verbs in this chapter as a class.

- | | | |
|--------|------------|----------|
| TWIRLS | CHOCOLATE | SPARKLES |
| SWEET | WAGS | AMBER |
| HAPPY | FLUTTERS | SMILES |
| TWINS | MRS GARCIA | MAKE |
| DUCKS | SINGS | SPECIAL |
| BLUE | THINKS | EXPLODES |
| SLIDES | BUTTER | TRICKLE |
| SPEAKS | SPOON | SURPRISE |



ACTIVITY THREE: MATCH THE DESCRIPTIONS!

An adjective is a word that describes a person, place or thing. There are lots of adjectives in *A Spoonful of Sadie*. Use the words below to match the adjectives to each character. There are two adjectives per character and some words could apply to more than one character, which can make for some fun variations! Compare the results as a class. Once the students have finished, they might like to create their own adjective descriptions for friends or family members. Be as creative as possible!

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| MUM is ... | MESSY & | HUNGRY. |
| ARLO is ... | BRAVE & | SUPPORTIVE. |
| SADIE is ... | EXCITABLE & | LOUD. |
| DAD is ... | CLUMSY & | CREATIVE. |
| BUTTER is ... | THOUGHTFUL & | NERVOUS. |
| AMBER is ... | RESPONSIBLE & | HELPFUL. |

