

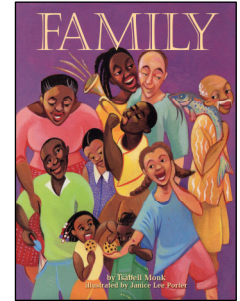
**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

Title: *Family*

Author: Isabell Monk

Illustrator: Janice Lee Porter

**Publisher and
Copyright Date:** Carolrhoda Books, 2001



**Connection to
Minnesota:** Minnesota author, Minnesota illustrator, Minnesota publisher

Summary: This is the story of Hope, a biracial child, who brings a new and unusual dessert to blend with the traditional dishes prepared by her cousins and Aunt Poogee at their annual summer get-together.

Suggested ages: 4-6

Tips for Reading:

- Use a child's voice and expressions in sharing the story and in emphasizing some of the quotes, as this book was written with the little girl (Hope) telling the story.

**Questions
before reading:**

- Does your family have get-togethers or reunions?
- Do any family members always bring special types of food to the get-togethers? What do they bring?
- Do you help prepare any special foods with your family? What do you make?

**To Introduce
this story say:** We're going to read a story about a little girl who brings a special dessert to a big family get-together.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- How was Hope treated by her country cousins?
- How did Hope feel when it was time for everyone to try the dessert that she made?
- Do you have any family members that look or act differently than you?
- Why do you like some friends, even if they look or act differently than you?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Make a "family tree" project that would include parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. (Note: Since some children may come from non-traditional families, you may choose to add "Your family can be any family you choose.")

Culture:

- Find photos of relatives and explain (or learn) how they are related.
- Use the five recipes near the back of the book to make coconut cake, frosting, lemonade, corn pudding, and/or sweet & sour pickles.
- Make ice cream the “old fashioned” way with the children taking turns cranking.

Dramatization:

- Act out situations in which people who look or act differently meet and get along very well, and also situations where people don't get along well (and then discuss the situations).

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- Bring foods from different cultures (and talk about the foods) for a group get-together.
- Share games, songs and any other activities from different cultures.

Related Books:

- ***Hope*** by Isabell Monk, illustrated by Janice Lee Porter (Lerner, 1999)
- ***The Relatives Came*** by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Stephen Gammell (Simon & Schuster, 1985)
- ***Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story*** by Lisa Westberg Peters, illustrated by Lauren Stringer (Harcourt Brace & Company, 2003)

