

# The Seven Silly Eaters

by Mary Ann Hoberman

Picky eaters and children who are part of or long for a large family will love this adorable story told entirely in rhyme.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Nobody makes chocolate chip cookies like my mom. What special food does your mom make for you?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that boy feeding the dog is going to get in trouble?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *The Seven Silly Eaters*

- perfect: excellent in every way
- proper: correct
- temperature: the degree of heat
- patiently: to wait without becoming upset
- fair: light-colored skin
- opinions: a personal view about a subject
- bellowed: shout loudly
- cross: angry
- faintly: weak and without energy
- murmur: to speak very quietly
- strain: to pass through a filter to remove large pieces
- pantry: a cupboard with shelves
- foolish: silly or ridiculous
- precious: highly valued and much loved
- appetite: a desire for food
- mutter: to speak very quietly
- feebly: weak or without strength
- fussy: choosy about what is liked or disliked
- splendid: impressive and enjoyable
- poached: to cook by simmering in or over water
- groan: a long low cry expressing pain or misery
- persnickety: overly attentive to details
- peck: a unit of measure or a container that holds a peck of materials
- sorrow: sad
- drearily: gloomy and unexcited
- wearily: tired
- grim: extremely unpleasant
- mishmash: a disorderly mixture of things
- huff: anger
- flung: throw or toss
- hodgepodge: a disorderly mixture of things
- depressed: unhappy or sad
- plump: rounded and full
- piping: extremely hot
- silk: a soft, fine fabric

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How did Peter like his milk?
- What kind of lemonade did Lucy like?
- Jack liked applesauce. What ingredients are in applesauce?
- Where did Mac dump his oatmeal if it had a lump?
- Mary Lou loved soft, squishy homemade bread. What is bread made out of?
- What did Mrs. Peters name her twins? What did they like to eat?
- Did Mrs. Peters love her children even though the things they wanted to eat took a lot of time to make?
- What did the kids try to do for Mrs. Peters for her birthday?
- What did Mrs. Peters think of her pink and plump and perfect cake?



**Do**

## Little Jack's Applesauce

See what all the fuss was about with Jack only eating applesauce! Use the recipe below to make your own or purchase pre-packaged individual containers. Discuss what it would be like to only eat applesauce.

### Ingredients:

6 apples – 2 of each kind

½ cup sugar

½ teaspoon of nutmeg or cinnamon

### Directions:

Peel, core and slice the apples. Cover with water in a saucepan and bring to a boil.

Boil apples for 15 to 20 minutes or until soft. Drain most, but not all, of the liquid out of the saucepan.

Add sugar and either nutmeg or cinnamon. Mash all together. Serve hot or cold.

Makes 4-6 servings.