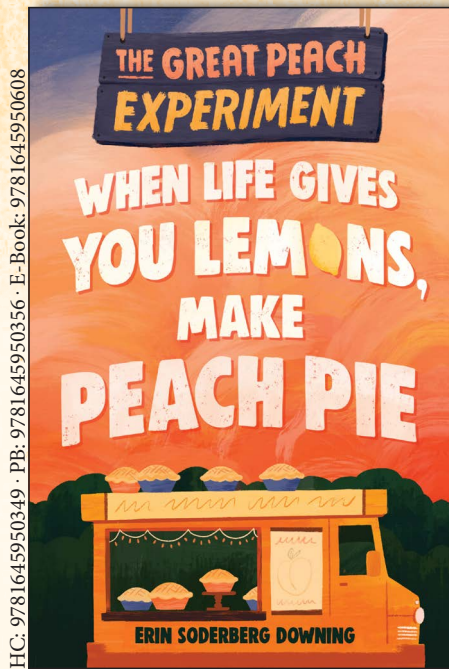


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EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



HC: 9781645950349 · PB: 9781645950356 · E-Book: 9781645950608

The Great Peach Experiment 1: When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Peach Pie
by Erin Soderberg Downing



HC: 9781645950363 · E-Book 9781645951018

The Great Peach Experiment 2: The Peach Pit

The Great Peach Experiment #3 is coming Spring 2023!

ABOUT THE SERIES

After losing their mother, the Peach kids and their dad took off to honor her by baking and selling peach pies from a food truck, and now they're fixing up an old house to start their very own bed-and-breakfast. It doesn't really matter that no one knows how to bake or run a business because the Peaches love a challenge. Illustrated throughout with art from older son Freddy's notebooks, The Great Peach Experiment series is about family, adventure, and lots and lots of yummy pies!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

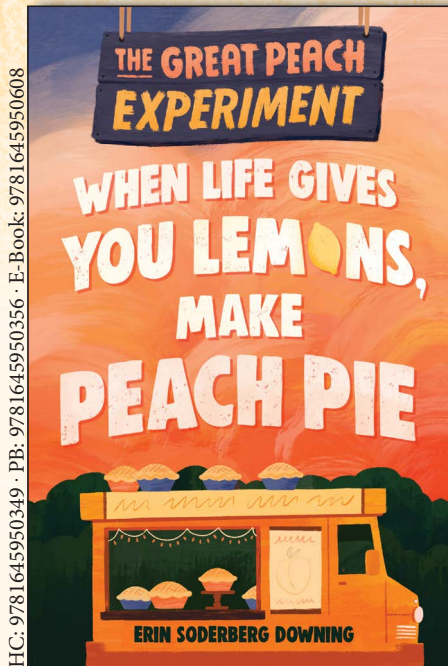


Erin Soderberg Downing has written more than fifty books for kids, tweens, and young adults, including series like The Quirks and Puppy Pirates. Her debut series with Pixel+Ink is The Great Peach Experiment, and the first book is When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Peach Pie. Erin, a former children's book editor who also worked at Nickelodeon, lives in Minneapolis with her husband, three hilarious kids, and their two dogs. Visit Erin online at erinsoderberg.com and on Twitter @erindowning.



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EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



The Great Peach Experiment 1:

*When Life Gives You
Lemons, Make Peach Pie*

by Erin Soderberg Downing

ABOUT THE BOOK

Mix together a used food truck, a road trip that doesn't exactly go as planned, and a *lot* of pie, in this sweet middle-grade series starter brimming with humor, heart, and a family to fall in love with.

After a tough year, Lucy, Freddy, and Herb Peach are ready for vacation. Lucy wants to read all of the books on the summer reading list. Freddy wants to work on his art projects (when he isn't stuck in summer school). Herb wants to swim every day.

Then their dad makes a big announcement: one of the inventions their mom came up with before she passed away has sold, and now they're millionaires!

But Dad has bigger plans than using the cash on fun stuff or investing it. He's bought a used food truck. The Peaches are going to spend the summer traveling the country selling pies. It will be the Great Peach Experiment—a summer of bonding while living out one of Mom's dreams. Summer plans, sunk. And there's one more issue Dad's neglected: none of them knows how to bake. . . .

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- Lucy is the oldest of three Peach children and is known as “the fixer.” Discuss whether this is a description that the family assigned to Lucy, or whether it's how she sees herself. How is this a big responsibility for a twelve-year-old? What is the one thing that she cannot fix? Explain how Lucy resembles her last name—she appears “perfect on the outside,” but a “mushed-up mess” on the inside (p. 1).
- Walter Peach is a scientist at a university and tries to solve every problem using scientific method. How does this approach keep him from connecting with his children? How does he use work to deal with grief after his wife dies? Walter tells the children that he is taking time off, and they will spend part of the summer traveling throughout the Midwest in a food truck. How does he think this will honor their mother's memory?

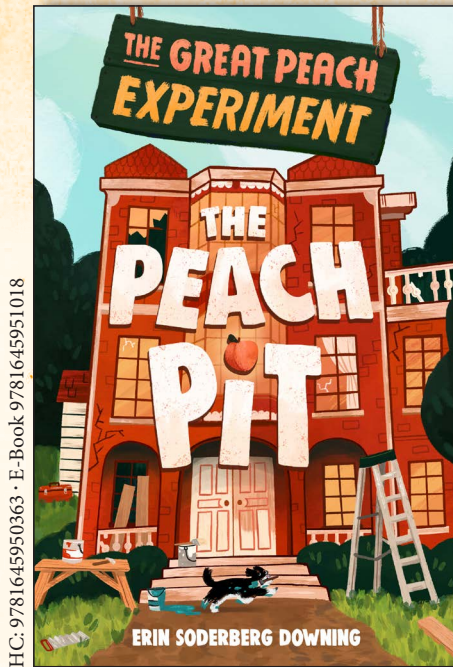


- Explain why Lucy doesn't quite trust her dad. Discuss her reaction when she learns that the university forced him to take a sabbatical. Then her dad reveals that he has been on sabbatical for a while and had used the time for researching food trucks. How does this secret cause greater disbelief and make Lucy skeptical of the entire plan? Debate Walter's possible reasons for not revealing this information when he announced the family adventure. Why doesn't he want Freddy and Herb to know about the forced sabbatical?
- Describe ten-year-old Freddy and eight-year-old Herb. Why is Freddy considered "a plum in a whole family of Peaches" (p. 25)? Cite evidence that he is the most optimistic Peach. How does Herb always appear hopeful? Which of the three Peach children is the most excited about their summer adventure? What goals do the Peach children set for their travels? How do their goals reveal their personalities? At what point do the children realize that this adventure is about their dad and not about the family?
- When does Freddy become a "leader" on this food-truck adventure? At what point does Lucy begin enjoying the adventure? How is she surprised by this?
- Define the term "game changer." Discuss what Lucy means by "figuring out some way to paint her dad back into the picture would be a game changer" (p. 165). Describe the moment in the novel when the children figure out how to "paint him" in. How does Walter Peach almost bail out just when the children think they have changed him? Who and what pulls him back in?
- Describe the exact moment in the novel when Walter Peach really sees his children and what each of them contributes to the family. Debate whether this is the turning point in the novel. At what point do the children realize that they really want to win the food truck contest? Discuss whether Walter is surprised by his children's creativity, ingenuity, and determination to win. In what ways do they win?
- Throughout the novel, Lucy writes letters to Great Aunt Lucinda. How do the letters contribute to the plot and character development? Describe the fond adventures that Great Aunt Lucinda gave Walter Peach when he was a boy. Why has he never told his children about these times? Discuss Great Aunt Lucinda's generosity to the family at the end of the novel. How is this gift a hint to another great adventure for the family?
- Mom's favorite saying was "When life gives you lemons, make iced tea." Discuss the "lemons" the Peaches encounter on their adventure. How do they manage to turn their adventure into "iced tea"? Explain how the food truck adventure helps Walter, Lucy, Freddy, and Herb deal with their grief. How does becoming a "complete" family honor their mother's memory?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

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EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



The Great Peach Experiment 2:

The Peach Pit

by Erin Soderberg Downing

ABOUT THE BOOK

Much to their surprise, the Peaches had a great summer running their food truck business and selling their pies across the Midwest, but they're happy to be back home in Duluth, Minnesota, where they can settle back into a routine just in time for the new school year.

That is, until Great Aunt Lucinda drops a big surprise on them—she wants to gift them her historic mansion. But there are conditions: They're to turn it into a cozy and welcoming bed-and-breakfast, something the Peach kids' mom always dreamed of before she passed away. And they only have until Thanksgiving to do the renovations and prove they can make the business work. It looks like it's a new chapter of The Great Peach Experiment.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- The Peaches are home after a summer of traveling and running a peach pie truck. Now Great Aunt Lucinda is offering them a new challenge. Explain why she wants the Peaches to turn her house into a bed-and-breakfast. Discuss the conditions of the gift. How is running a B&B out of their comfort zone? Who is the biggest cheerleader of the project?
- Dad is especially reluctant to accept Great Aunt Lucinda's proposal. How are the Peaches a wedge between Aunt Lucinda and her son, David Peach? Explain why this concerns Wally Peach. What are David's plans for the house? Explain what Aunt Lucinda means when she tells the Peaches that she wants them to "fill it with family and life again" (12).



- Describe Aunt Lucinda. How is she more of a grandmother than an aunt to the Peach siblings? Define eccentric. What are some examples of Aunt Lucinda's eccentricities? How does this make her an interesting person?
- The Peach siblings are extremely resourceful and proven problem solvers. Dad approaches everything using the scientific method. Study the scientific method on page 31. How does using this method prolong the job of packing, moving, and renovating the house? At what point does Dad, a scientist, realize that his method doesn't apply to every project in life? How do the Peach children know how to manage their dad?
- Aunt Lucinda's house is on the National Register. Explain how this is an advantage and disadvantage as the Peaches work to turn it into a B&B.
- Lucy and Freddy are given a guest room to decorate, and Dad and Herb work together to create a third guest room. Lucy thinks they are only "trying to dress [the house] up with makeup" (47). Describe the makeup that each of the Peaches use to decorate their guest room. Discuss where each of the Peaches find inspiration.
- Aunt Lucinda moved to Birch Pond retirement community. Eight-year-old Herb visits her often. Describe the community from Herb's point of view. How does he convince them to let him work there? What does he get in return?
- Discuss Aunt Lucinda's friends at the center. Explain Herb's first reaction to Joye. How does she help him solve the problem of the Mother-Son Tea that his teacher sponsors? Explain the difference he makes in Joye's life.
- When the Peaches first moved into the house, Herb thought it was haunted. How is Herb spooked by a prank Freddy plays? Irony is when something is the opposite of what is expected. Discuss the irony of Joye helping Herb deal with his fears of the house. How does Herb get back at Freddy for the prank?
- Lucy discovers a dollhouse in the attic that is an exact replica of Aunt Lucinda's house. How is it the key to solving some of the mysteries of the house? What is the "family treasure" they find in the cellar? Describe the lunch box and the items in it. How is it similar to a time capsule?
- David says the lunch box was his "most prized possession" (300). How is the house Aunt Lucinda's "prized possession"? How does the lunch box change the way David thinks about the B&B?
- The Peaches reveal the B&B to Aunt Lucinda and David at Thanksgiving. Describe the things that go wrong when Aunt Lucinda and David first arrive. Explain how their aunt reacts to these mistakes. What is Aunt Lucinda's reaction to what the Peaches have accomplished?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.