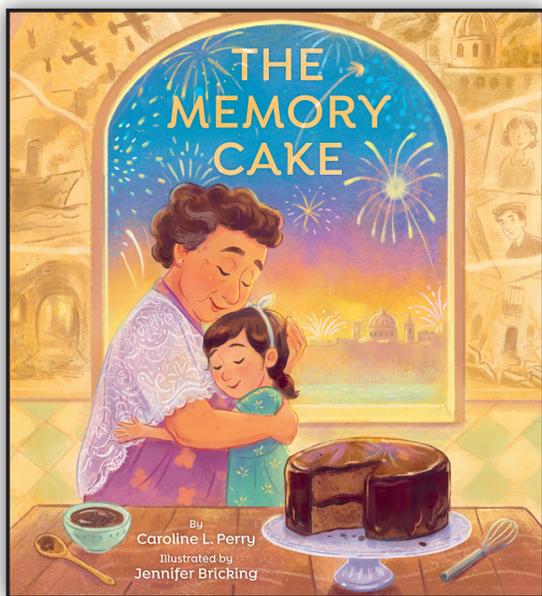


# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



HC: 9780823456468

## *The Memory Cake*

by Caroline L. Perry  
illustrated by Jennifer Bricking

### ABOUT THE BOOK

While baking a special cake with her granddaughter, a Maltese grandmother revisits her memories of survival, hope, and life under siege during World War II.

Every year, a young girl visits her Nanna on the tiny Mediterranean isle of Malta, and together they bake a cake. As they mix, stir, and ice their chocolate confection, Nanna explains why the cake is so special: When she was a girl, she made it to celebrate the end of a WWII bombing campaign against her small country.

Sharing the little-known history of the siege of Malta, this gentle picture book celebrates all who dream of peaceful futures during times of war and uncertainty, and encourages readers to share family stories and memories—even the difficult ones.

A note in the back shares the author's inspiration from her visits to her own Maltese Nanna and the real history of the of siege of Malta, along with a recipe for Nanna's memory cake.

### ABOUT THE CREATORS

Photo Credit: Caroline L. Perry



**Caroline L. Perry** is the author of *The Corgi and the Queen*, *The Memory Cake*, and several other books for young readers. Born in England, she has lived in four countries and visited more than sixty others, always seeking out 'hidden histories' and quirky, lesser-known museums wherever she goes. Like her late Maltese Nanna, Caroline is an enthusiastic baker with a perpetually sweet tooth (and a special fondness for chocolate cake). Caroline lives in Southern California with her husband and their three endlessly curious kids.

**Jennifer Bricking** is an artist currently living in Seattle, Washington. She works as a concept artist for video games and as an illustrator for young adult and middle grade books, picture books, magazines, and advertisements. When she's not drawing, Jennifer likes to travel, ride her bike, skateboard, and explore the Pacific Northwest and beyond.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The cake in the story has many layers, tied to Nanna’s memories. If your life were a cake, what memories would each layer hold? What flavors or feelings would go into those layers? Think about both sweet moments and ones that were challenging but made you stronger.
- Describe a “layer” in your life that felt hard at the time but helped you grow as a person. What did you learn from that experience? How did it change you?
- Some memories in the book are joyful, and some are bittersweet. Do you think it’s important to remember both kinds? Why or why not? Why is it important to share difficult feelings with others?
- What emotions did Nanna and her granddaughter feel when they were baking the cake? How did their feelings change throughout the story? Talk about a time you felt a mix of feelings—have you ever been happy and sad at the same time?
- The characters use baking and conversation as a way to share stories and pass on traditions. Do you have any family traditions?
- The story demonstrates how memories can be shared across generations. Why do you think it’s important to talk to older family members about their experiences? What can we learn from them?
- How does baking the cake together help the characters feel more connected? What are some things you’ve done with others—friends and family members—that made you feel closer to those people?
- The characters in the story work together to bake the cake. When was the last time that teamwork helped you accomplish something?
- The granddaughter in the story lives far away from her Nanna. How do you stay connected with friends and loved ones who aren’t close by?

## ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

- **Our Lives in Layers: Story Strips**  
Students will create a “Layered Life Cake” using colored paper strips. Each strip represents a different layer of their life:
  - A joyful memory
  - A challenge they overcame
  - A person, pet, or place that they miss
  - A favorite destination
  - A hope for the futureThey can write a sentence or draw a picture on each strip, then attach or glue the strips to form their own “memory cake.” This can be a personal reflection project or part of a classroom display.
- **Family Memory Interviews**  
Have students interview a family member, neighbor, caregiver, or loved one about a memory connected to food, for example, a recipe or a cooking experience. Students can write and illustrate an article about their interviewee and why that memory is important to them. These can be shared with the class!
- **The Memory Cake Cookbook**  
Ask students to collect favorite family cake/baked goods recipes and collate them into a book that can be shared.
- **Bake It with Words: Sensory Writing Prompt**  
Ask students to write short stories or poems inspired by memories that involve one or more of the senses (taste, smell, sound, touch, sight). This is a great exercise to encourage metaphor and layered description.  
Example prompt: “Write about the smell of something delicious and what it reminds you of.”
- **Bonus Fun: Memory Cake Coloring Sheet and Word Search**  
Students can use the reproducible “bonus fun” activity sheets on pages 3 and 4 of this Educator’s Guide to sketch their own memory cake and complete a word search activity.

Guide created by the author of *The Memory Cake*, Caroline L. Perry

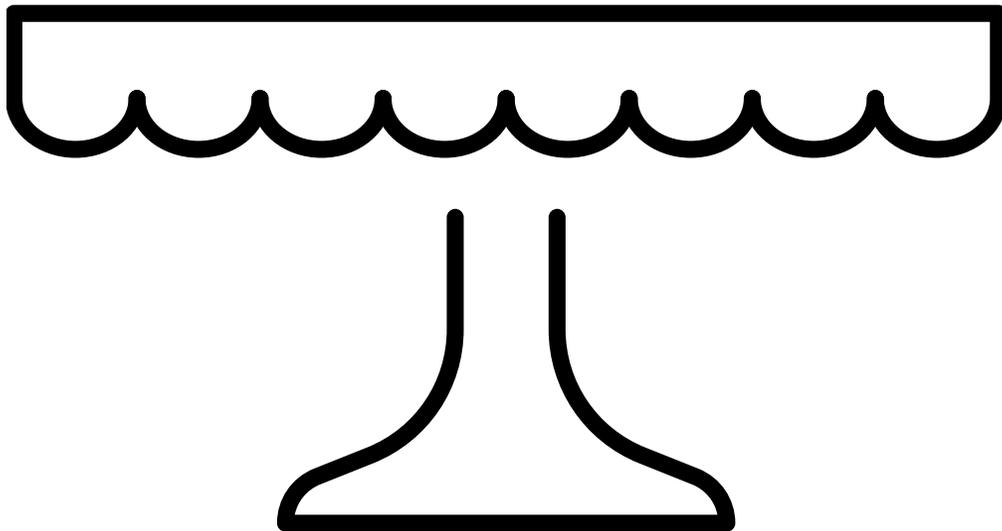




Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Create and color your dream cake!



*The Memory Cake*  
by Caroline L. Perry



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Search and find all of the words listed below.

I	Z	R	F	W	M	D	Z	V	V	V	B	M	I	X	E	R	Q	F	M
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B	A	D	M	J	X	P	M	U	M	K	L	C	Q	K	T	R	L	K	D
T	K	Q	S	F	N	M	O	O	Q	P	N	A	N	N	A	P	G	E	I
M	U	U	J	U	R	J	O	W	R	B	W	V	Y	B	O	P	A	P	T
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W	D	K	U	O	S	C	A	O	T	A	L	P	S	B	S	T	C	I	Q
B	C	C	S	P	O	V	T	A	C	M	K	Y	E	F	R	T	M	J	J

LAYERS

CELEBRATE

HANINI

BIZZILLA

BUILDINGS

FIREWORKS

PASTIZZI

MEMORIES

SUITCASE

UNDERGROUND

MEDITERRANEAN

ICING

CAKE

LIMESTONE

NANNA

FESTA RECIPE

OCEAN

DELICIOUS

MIXER



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