



# Teacher's Handbook

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Books on the Menu® is a Program Created by  
Reading Is Fundamental® to Inspire Young People to Read and Learn



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Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF®) develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate older children to read. Through a national network of teachers, parents, and community volunteers, RIF programs provide books and other essential literacy resources to children at no cost to them or their families. RIF's highest priority is the nation's neediest children, from infancy to age 11.

Through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education, RIF provides federal matching funds to thousands of school and community-based organizations that sponsor RIF programs. RIF also receives private support from hundreds of corporations and foundations, thousands of local organizations and businesses, and countless individuals.

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# Table of Contents

<b>Section One: Introduction</b> .....	1
Program Summary .....	1
Program Goals .....	3
Program Components .....	5
Who's Involved? .....	6
Program Materials .....	7
<b>Section Two: Books</b> .....	9
Selecting Books .....	9
Ordering Your Books .....	14
<b>Section Three: Setting Up Your Program</b> .....	19
Timeline .....	20
Matching Bookmates & Dealing with Mismatches .....	22
Teacher Conferences .....	23
Categorizing Titles .....	25
Supplies .....	26
Bookmate Displays .....	28
<b>Section Four: Training Older Readers</b> .....	31
Before the First Training Session .....	31
First Training Session .....	33
Second Training Session .....	35
<b>Section Five: Read Together</b> .....	37
First & Second Read Together .....	37
After Each Read Together .....	40
Group Sharing .....	42
<b>Section Six: Book Feasts</b> .....	45
Organizing .....	45
Motivational Activities .....	46
<b>Section Seven: Assessment</b> .....	53
Observations and Anecdotes .....	53
Surveys .....	54
Portfolio Assessment .....	54
More Applications .....	55
<b>Section Eight: Resources</b> .....	57
Book Collection Annotations .....	57
Resources for You .....	60
<b>Section Nine: Program Reproducibles</b> .....	61
Menu Planner Reproducibles .....	61
Program Reproducibles for You and Your Students .....	129

# Resources

## Books on the Menu Annotations for the Core 24-Book Collection

### *Bread and Jam for Frances*

by **Russell Hoban**

Frances is a badger who only eats bread and jam. She won't give other foods a try — until her parents and her best friend, Albert, help change her mind.

### *Bread Bread Bread*

by **Ann Morris**

Photographs in this book show all sorts of people eating all sorts of breads from around the world.

### *Chicken Little*

by **Steven Kellogg**

In this funny version of an old folktale, it isn't that the sky is falling — it's really an acorn. Meanwhile, hungry Foxy Loxy is trying to trick the worried poultry into being his dinner.

### *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*

by **Judi Barrett**

Grandpa tells a whopper of a tall tale about Chewandswallow; a town where it snows mashed potatoes, the wind blows in things like hamburgers, and the fog is really pea soup.

### *The Doorbell Rang*

by **Pat Hutchins**

Victoria and Sam try to figure out how to divide 12 cookies among their many friends who come to visit.

### *Everybody Cooks Rice*

by **Norah Dooley**

Carrie is sent to find her brother, who is snacking his way home through the kitchens of friends in their multicultural neighborhood.

### *Family Pictures (Cuadros de Familia)*

by **Carmen Lomas Garza**

A Mexican-American artist shows interesting parts of her childhood and tells about them in both Spanish and English.

***Feast for Ten***

**by Cathryn Falwell**

In this counting book, a family goes shopping for groceries and fixes a meal for ten hungry folks.

***Gregory, the Terrible Eater***

**by Mitchell Sharmat**

Gregory, a goat, does not eat the rubbish his parents expect him to eat. He only likes fruit, vegetables, and real food.

***How My Parents Learned to Eat***

**by Ina Friedman**

A girl tells how her American sailor father and her Japanese mother tried to learn the other's way of eating before they were married.

***How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World***

**By Marjorie Priceman**

Since the market is closed, the main character travels around the world collecting ingredients for her apple pie.

***I Need a Lunch Box***

**by Jeanette Caines**

Doris, a new first-grader, gets to buy all sorts of school supplies. Her younger brother wishes he could have a new lunch box, too.

***The Little Red Hen***

**by Paul Galdone**

In this classic folktale, the hen does all the work from raising the wheat to baking the cake while the lazy mouse, cat, and dog watch — until the end.

***Mel's Diner***

**by Marissa Moss**

Mabel tells all about how she helps out, plays, and spends the day in her parents' friendly diner.

***More Spaghetti, I Say!***

**by Rita Gelman**

In this funny rhymed story, Minnie the monkey is too busy eating spaghetti to play with Freddy — and then the story turns around!

***Paper Crane***

**by Molly Bang**

A restaurant owner is generous to a poor stranger. In return, the stranger gives him a magical paper crane that brings joy and guests.

***Peanut Butter and Jelly: A Play Rhyme***

**by Nadine Westcott**

Use hand motions to act out the verses about this popular sandwich.

***Pizza Party***

**by Grace Maccarone**

Four children and a grownup make pizza from scratch and have a great time eating it in the end.

***Sheep Out to Eat***

**by Nancy Shaw**

In this silly story, five hungry sheep discover that a tea shop may not be a good place for them to eat.

***Stone Soup***

**by Tony Ross**

A hen saves herself from becoming a wolf's dinner — and tricks him into doing her chores — all while she is making “stone soup.”

***The Stories Julian Tells***

**by Ann Cameron**

The first chapter is a funny story about two boys who can't resist their dad's delicious lemon pudding.

***Strega Nona***

**by Tomie dePaola**

In this old Italian folktale, a magic cooking pot overflows with spaghetti after Big Anthony, as usual, doesn't pay attention.

***Thunder Cake***

**by Patricia Polacco**

A little girl braves out a thunderstorm by baking a cake with her grandmother.

***Too Many Tamales***

**by Gary Soto**

Maria thinks she has lost her mother's wedding ring in the holiday tamales she helped to make.

## Resources for Teachers/Coordinators

- ***The Read-Aloud Handbook*** by Jim Trelease. (3<sup>rd</sup> rev. ed.) Penguin, 1995.

In addition to sound advice about reading aloud to children, the fourth edition of this classic guide includes an up-to-date treasury of more than 1,200 children's books, fully annotated.

- ***Second Helpings: Books and Activities About Food*** by Jan Irving and Robin Currie. Illustrated by Susie Kropa. Teacher Ideas Press, 1994.

In eight chapters, the authors group books, suggest things to make and do, provide plays, and print several easy recipes for children to make. Themes include soups, cakes, out of the lunch box, huge eaters, and a variety of other food-related ideas.

- ***Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change their Lives Forever*** by Mem Fox. Harcourt, 2001.

Mem Fox, a well known children's author and respected literacy expert, explores when and where to read aloud, and demonstrates with clear and lively examples how to read aloud to best effect, and how to get the most value and joy out of a read-aloud session.