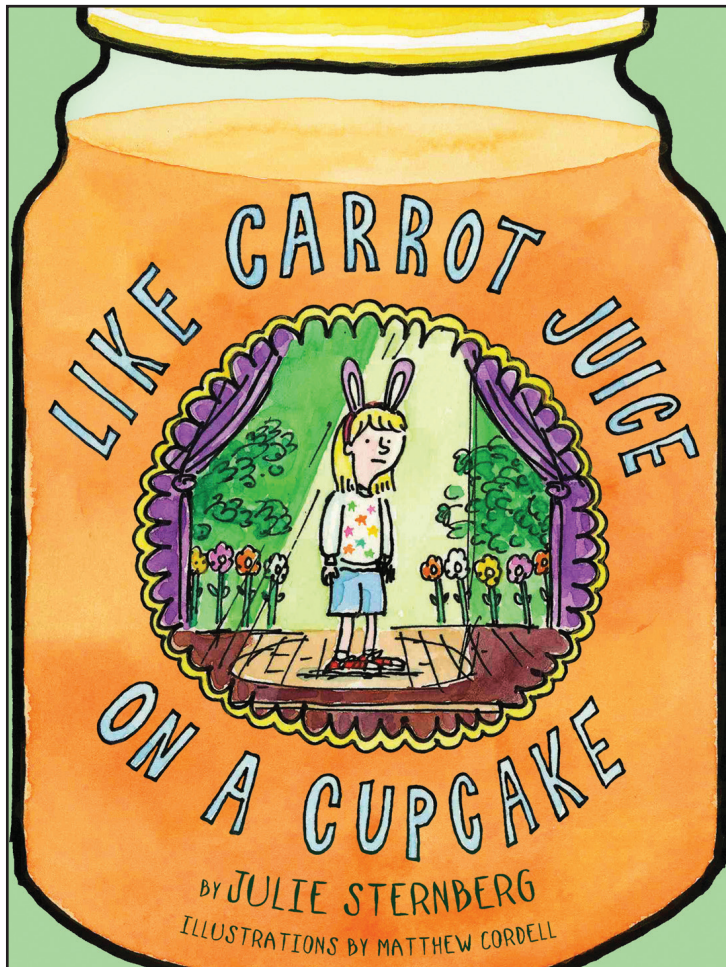


CURRICULUM GUIDE



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LIKE CARROT JUICE ON A CUPCAKE

By JULIE STERNBERG

Illustrations by MATTHEW CORDELL

Creators of *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* and *Like Bug Juice on a Burger*

I did a mean thing.
A very mean thing.
To a new girl AND
to my best friend.
I HATE that I did it.
But I did.

IN THIS THIRD ENDEARING CHAPTER BOOK from the team who created *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* and *Like Bug Juice on a Burger*, Eleanor's relationship with her best friend, Pearl, experiences its first growing pains. When a glamorous new student transfers to school, Eleanor is excited about the possibility of a new friend. But when Pearl is assigned to be the new girl's buddy, Eleanor fears she can't compete, and her jealousy makes her do a mean thing—a *very* mean thing. To make matters worse, Eleanor's been chosen for the lead role in the springtime musical, and she has to sing a solo in front of the *entire* school.

From overcoming stage fright to learning how to really say—and show—you're sorry, young readers will identify with Eleanor as she navigates the bittersweet waters of growing up.



A Junior Library Guild Selection

Before Reading

* Hold a class discussion about regret. Have your students ever said or done something that they wish they hadn't? Did it involve a friend or a family member? How did these incidents make the students feel?

* Read aloud the prologue to *Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake*. The main character, Eleanor, has done something she wishes she hadn't done. What do your students predict happens in the story to bring Eleanor to this place of regret? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.5)



Discussion Questions

* What are Pearl and Eleanor's first impressions of Ainsley, the new girl in their class? How do Eleanor's classmates react to Ainsley's arrival? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1; RL.3.1)

* Pearl spends every Monday and Wednesday after school with Eleanor. When Pearl's mom comes to get Pearl, Eleanor's dad always says, "You can't have her! She's ours." This twice-a-week play date is a very important part of Eleanor and Pearl's friendship. How does the arrival of Ainsley change this routine and how does Eleanor feel about the change? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1; RL.3.1)

* Why does Pearl volunteer Eleanor to audition for the school musical when she knows that Eleanor doesn't like to sing in front of an audience?

* Eleanor's dog, Antoine, has a habit of chewing up important items belonging to her mother and father. Despite Eleanor's attempts to train her dog, his bad behavior persists. Eleanor's parents decide to solve the problem by sending Antoine away for dog training. Why do you think that Antoine's absence is particularly difficult for Eleanor to handle? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1; RL.3.1)

* Why does Pearl tell Eleanor a secret about Ainsley?

* Eleanor is so sad about the change in her friendships with Pearl and with Ainsley. Eleanor decides to get advice about her friendship troubles from Bibi, her former babysitter, and from her dad. What guidance did Bibi and Eleanor's dad give? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3; RL.3.3)

* Why do you think that Ainsley gives Eleanor a custom-made, sparkly sweatshirt? What does the gift tell you about Ainsley's personality? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1; RL.3.1)





* How do Eleanor's feelings about Nick change over the course of the story? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3; RL.3.3)

* Dealing with secrets can be hard. How did secrets hurt the friendships in this story? When do you think secrets should be shared or kept private? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2)



Activities



-  Ainsley has just moved from Orlando and has joined Eleanor's class. Eleanor's teacher, Mrs. Ramji, sympathizes with Ainsley: "We need to make her (Ainsley) feel welcome. It's not easy starting a new school so late in the year." What would a "new kid" in your class need to know about how life in your classroom and your school works? Design a "new kid in school" survival kit. Include items that would ease a new kid's entry into your school. Would a map of your classroom and of your school be helpful? A list of school rules? A set of invitations to eat lunch with people in the class?
-  Eleanor seeks advice from those she loves to help her get a handle on her friendship troubles. People sometimes write letters to an advice columnist in the newspaper when they are faced with challenges in their lives. Write a letter to an advice columnist from Eleanor's point of view about her problems with Pearl and Ainsley. Write a letter in response to Eleanor's letter from the advice columnist's point of view offering advice to Eleanor to help her cope with the jealousy in her friendship.
-  What are the keys to being a good friend? Eleanor experiences some ups and downs as she tries to figure out how to maintain an established friendship and to start a new friendship. Make a list of the qualities you look for in a good friend.
-  Eleanor feels a pang of jealousy when her teacher pairs Pearl with the new girl, Ainsley, as buddies. Pearl is supposed to help Ainsley catch up on schoolwork. Though Eleanor is envious of the pairing, buddies can also be a positive experience. Pair students together as "kindness buddies." Have each child draw an outline of his/her hand on construction paper. "High five" your kindness buddy by listing qualities you admire about your buddy on each finger of your handprint. Display the "high fives" in class. Think of ways to show kindness to your buddy throughout a week. Could you take on a classroom job for your buddy? Could you save a seat for your buddy at the lunch tables?



The components of this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, PhD. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name _____

Pearl The Poet



At times, Pearl speaks like a poet. She tells Eleanor, “You’re as important to me as paper is to pencil.” Pearl also describes her feelings like a poet might: “I’m as happy as a puppy gulping down a whole bag of treats.” Comparisons using “like” or “as” are called similes.

Try your hand at writing similes like the ones Pearl creates. Imagine words to describe the characters in the story, and then think of a way to compare the descriptive words to something else. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3)

1. Antoine the dog is as _____ as

2. Eleanor is as _____ as

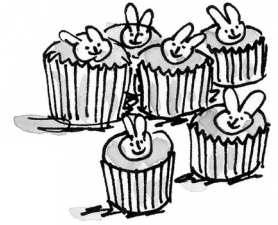
3. Mrs. Quaid, the music teacher, is as _____ as

4. Ainsley is as _____ as

5. Eleanor’s mom is as _____ as

6. Eleanor’s dad’s singing voice is as _____ as

Name _____



Emotion Chart

Eleanor feels a variety of different emotions as her friendship with Pearl is tested and as she prepares to perform in the school musical. Listed in the chart below are words that describe how Eleanor feels at different parts of the story. Hunt through the story to find examples of Eleanor exhibiting each feeling. Copy the examples you find from the text into the middle column of the chart. In the third column, describe a time or incident when you felt this emotion. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1; RL.4.3)

ELEANOR'S EMOTION	EXAMPLE FROM THE TEXT THAT SHOWS ELEANOR FEELING THIS EMOTION	A TIME WHEN YOU FELT THIS EMOTION
Sad		
Jealous		
Scared		
Embarrassed		
Proud		



Meredith Zimmer

JULIE STERNBERG grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a somewhat noisy and chaotic household—the consequence, no doubt, of containing four children with just four-and-a-half years separating the youngest from the eldest. She was one of those kids who always had her nose in a book. She read on the playground; she read in the bathtub; she read at slumber parties. She would have read instead of eating if her parents had been more supportive.

Her love of *To Kill a Mockingbird* may have played a role in her decision to become a public interest lawyer as an adult. Her love of children's books certainly led her to give up practicing law to earn an MFA in creative writing from the New School.

In her first book, *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie*, she introduced readers to Eleanor Kane. “I tend to find inspiration for stories from particularly emotional, real-life moments,” says Julie. “I wrote Eleanor’s first book after my family learned that our beloved babysitter was moving away. We were all so heartbroken! One of the things I love most about being a writer is taking sad times like that one, or angry times, or mortifying times, and trying to at least get a powerful story from them.” Eleanor goes away to summer camp (but doesn’t like it much) in *Like Bug Juice on a Burger*, and learns a lot about friendship when she does a very mean thing in *Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake*.

Julie Sternberg lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York. For more information about her life and work and to download free activity materials based on her books, visit her website: www.JulieSternberg.com

Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie

Illustrations by
Matthew Cordell

ISBN 978-0-8109-8424-0

A Junior Library Guild Selection

2013-2014 Children's Gallery Award nominee

2012 Gryphon Award Winner

2012-2013 Texas Bluebonnet master list selection

Parents magazine's 20 Best Children's Books of 2011 selection

New York Public Library's 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing selection

National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) Honors book

Spring 2011 IndieBound Kids' Indie Next List selection

2011 ABC New Voices Project selection

2011 Cybils Finalist

“Sternberg hits all the right notes here, capturing a sensitive kid’s first experience of loss with tender respectfulness and full acknowledgement that separation is a bereavement too.”

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*



Like Bug Juice on a Burger

Illustrations by
Matthew Cordell

ISBN 978-1-4197-0190-0

A Junior Library Guild Selection

A 2013 *Bulletin* Blue Ribbon Book

Finalist for the 2013 Nerdy Book Club Award

“This sequel to *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* is just as endearing and wise, illustrating how small triumphs can help children survive what, at the time, seems an insurmountable trial.” —*Booklist*



Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake

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