

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

Sharon Creech

Teacher's Guide

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CLASSROOM
FAVORITES

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Synopsis

I. Soup

Twelve-year-old Rosie's best friend is her next-door neighbor Bailey. This day, Rosie is angry with Bailey, so her Granny Torrelli tells her that they should think of the nice things about him. Granny tells Rosie a parallel story about how she got mad at an intruder pretending to be a meter reader and beat him on the head with a broom. Rosie explains that she likes Bailey because he is like a brother only better. A few years ago when it became clear that Bailey is blind, she did everything in her power to help him—sometimes suffocating him with her good intentions.

Granny Torrelli comes over to make soup (which she calls "zuppa") with Rosie. As they cook, Granny gets Rosie to admit her anger at Bailey. Granny tells a story about Pardo, her close childhood friend. Rosie recalls that when she and Bailey were four years old, his mother Carmelita started to cry because Bailey is blind. Rosie always wanted to be just like Bailey. Rosie refused to go to school because Bailey could not come with her. Rosie had once ripped up a Braille book that Bailey was reading because she resented that he knew something that she didn't.

Rosie and Bailey used to put on plays. One day, they put on a play about a husband deserting his family, just as Bailey's father had deserted his family because he could not take the pressure of Bailey's disability. Realizing that Rosie is stubborn, Granny tells her a story about a time that she was stubborn with Pardo and a dog named Nero. Rosie tries to train a guide dog for Bailey. She finds what she assumes is a stray dog, but the child who owns the dog comes after it. Bailey explains that guide

dogs are special animals with a lot more training and besides, he can't have one until he is sixteen years old. Rosie and Granny eat the delicious soup. Rosie recalls a day when Bailey was lost. "I went for a short walk that got very long," he says. Two years ago, Bailey had come to Rosie's rescue when two older girls attacked her. Rosie had learned Braille to read like Bailey and is both shocked and furious when he is not pleased by her efforts. "Get over yourself, Rosie," he says. Rosie wonders why Granny did not marry Pardo and stay in Italy. Granny says they quarreled and she was too stubborn to write an apology letter. Granny and Rosie take soup and orange salad to Bailey's house. The two families have a lovely little gathering.

II. Pasta

It is Saturday, and Granny Torrelli is back to make pasta. They get Bailey to help. Granny, unlike Rosie, lets Bailey do all sorts of tasks like cracking the eggs. A new girl named Janine has moved into the neighborhood and Rosie agrees to be her best friend even though Rosie's closest girl friend is Marlee. Rosie is furious because Janine is friendly with Bailey and suddenly Rosie has a rival for Bailey's affection. Granny tells a parallel story about her rival for Pardo's affections, Violetta.

Janine comes to the door to ask Bailey when he will give her first Braille lesson, to Rosie's fury. Granny explains how she convinced her rival Violetta to cut off her beautiful hair but the plan backfired when Violetta looked even prettier with short hair. The kids form the dough into little cavatelli and then make the sauce. Granny explains that Violetta went off with Marco. Rosie wants a Marco of her own to come and sweep her off her feet. Suddenly, looking out the window, Rosie sees that male twins around her age have moved in across the street. Now she has double Marco, to Bailey's fury. Granny tells how the Gattozzi baby recovered from an illness. Violetta went back to her home, Marco went back to his, and she and Pardo were reunited.



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Rosie is now willing to invite Janine and the new neighbors to dinner. They have twelve people at the big pasta party that evening, to everyone's delight.

"Tutto va bene," says Granny Torrelli, and all is well for Rosie and her neighborhood friends. Rosie has a deeper appreciation of the ebb and flow of friendship.

Timeline

- 1945** Sharon Creech born
World War II ends
- 1948** State of Israel founded
- 1950** First modern credit card introduced
- 1952** Car seat belts introduced; polio vaccine invented
- 1955** Disneyland opens; McDonald's corporation founded
- 1957** Dr. Seuss publishes *The Cat in the Hat*
- 1961** Peace Corps founded; Berlin Wall built
- 1963** President Kennedy assassinated
- 1967** First Super Bowl; first heart transplant
Six Day War in Middle East
- 1974** President Nixon resigns
- 1979** Sharon Creech moves to England
Sony introduces the Walkman
- 1981** First woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court
Pac-man video game is very popular
- 1983** Sally Ride becomes first woman in space
- 1986** Sharon Creech writes her first book
- 1989** Berlin Wall taken down
- 1990** Nelson Mandela is freed in South Africa
- 1991** Collapse of Soviet Union
- 1994** Sharon Creech returns to America
- 1995** Sharon Creech wins the Newbery Medal
- 1997** Scientists clone sheep

Author Sketch

Sharon Creech was born in 1945, in Cleveland, Ohio. After completing her BA degree at Hiram College, she earned an MA at George Mason University. Her first marriage ended in divorce but produced two children: Rob and Karin. Creech's life took an unexpected turn when she decided to teach English at the TASIS England American School in Surrey, England. She lived in England from 1979 to 1994, briefly teaching in Switzerland.



Creech was an enthusiastic writer throughout grade school and high school and an equally avid reader but did not consider a career as a writer. As an English teacher, Creech was able to share her love both of literature and of writing. She did not begin writing until her father died of a stroke in 1986. Her father's inability to express himself as a result of his stroke opened her own floodgates of creativity.

Absolutely Normal Chaos, Creech's first book for young readers, was published in England in 1990 but did not find a publisher in America. Five years later, *Walk Two Moons* catapulted Sharon Creech to fame in America when it won the Newbery Medal.

Currently, Creech lives with her husband Lyle in New Jersey, where he is the headmaster of a private school and she continues to write. Creech is an often-invited guest at national and regional conferences and literature festivals where she continues to whet the appetites of current and future readers.



Critic's Corner

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup is a delightful novel with light touches of humor enfolding a serious story. Reviewers were enthusiastic about its charms. For instance, Paul Hughes, reviewing the novel for amazon.com, noted: "The details of both Rosie's and Granny Torrelli's respective stories are often quite funny (from Braille jealousy to secret guide-dog training for the legally blind Bailey). But, as usual, what Creech does best is slyly proffer small, nourishing morsels of wisdom—not unlike the cavatelli, the 'little dough canoes,' that Rosie, Granny Torrelli, and that Bailey boy labor over in the book's sweet second half."

Tina Hudak, reviewing the novel for *School Library Journal*, called it "a humorous and endearing narrative about intergenerational relationships." Ilene Cooper, writing in *Booklist*, had this to say: "This story of a friendship, told around food and delivered in small, digestible bites, is a tasty treat.... This gets high marks for its unique voice (make that voices) and for the way the subtleties that are woven into the story. Each character adds flavor, but the story's strength comes mostly from Rosie—bossy, loving, and willing to see both the error of her ways and the possibilities for the future."

Other Books by Sharon Creech

Absolutely Normal Chaos (1995)

A Baby in a Basket: New-Baby Songs (2004)

Bloomability (1998)

Chasing Redbird (1997)

A Fine, Fine School (2001)

Love That Dog (2000)

Fishing in the Air (2000)

Heartbeat (2004)

Pleasing the Ghost (1996)

Ruby Holler (2002)

Walk Two Moons (1994)

The Wanderer (2000)

Bibliography

Authors and Artists for Young Adults, volume 21, Gale (Detroit, MI), 1997.

Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults, volumes 9, 11, 12, Gale (Detroit, MI), 2001.

Booklist, August, 2001, Hazel Rochman, review of *Love That Dog*, p. 2118.

Children's Literature Review, Volume 42, Gale (Detroit, MI), 1997.

Horn Book, 605; November/December, 2001, Betty Carter, review of *Love That Dog*, p. 743.

New York Times Book Review, May 21, 1995, pp. 24, 34; October 21, 2001, Meg Wolitzer, review of *Love That Dog*, p. 30.

St. James Guide to Young Adult Writers, 2nd edition, St. James (Detroit, MI), 1999, pp. 195-197.

School Library Journal, review of *Love That Dog*, p. 177; September, 2001, interview with Sharon Creech, p. 21.

Time, August 27, 2001, Andrea Sachs, "A Writer Who's Thirteen at Heart," p. F17.

General Objectives

1. To probe the novel's title
2. To understand the novel's unusual form
3. To assess the characters of Rosie and Granny Torrelli
4. To recognize the novel's theme
5. To describe the novel's plot
6. To understand the lessons that Granny teaches Rosie
7. To find examples of compassion
8. To sympathize with Rosie's jealousy
9. To relish the author's use of humor
10. To understand the Italian words and phrases

Specific Objectives

1. To analyze how Rosie feels about Bailey
2. To appreciate the love between Rosie and Granny Torrelli
3. To understand Bailey's visual impairment
4. To recognize the importance of family bonds
5. To probe why Rosie learns Braille
6. To understand the effects of Granny and Rosie cooking together
7. To trace the unfolding story
8. To analyze how Granny's stories help Rosie mature
9. To identify with Bailey's drive for independence
10. To understand how Rosie conquers her jealousy

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Sharon Creech's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

conflict in literature a struggle or fight. There are two kinds of conflict. In an external conflict, characters struggle against a force outside themselves. In an internal conflict, characters battle a force within themselves. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* has both kinds of conflict. Both Granny and Rosie have a strong internal conflict over their stubbornness. Rosie has external conflicts with Bailey over his interest in Janine and his refusal to accept her as the rescuer; rather, he strives to take care of himself. He also takes care of Rosie on occasion, as shown in the incident with the bullies.

humor parts of a story that are funny. Humor can be created through sarcasm, word play, word choice, irony, and exaggeration, for instance. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* is very funny, in a sweet and gentle way. The novel is especially amusing when Granny takes over. When she wants Rosie and Bailey to be alone, for instance, she excuses herself and goes to the bathroom. Sometimes she comes back too soon and must leave again. Rosie's description of herself is also amusing, as when she says, "I know it is mean of me to be quiet right now, but the sly fox has taken over, and I am no longer in control of my Rosie self."

point of view the position from which a story is told. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* is told from the first-person point of view: The narrator is one of the characters in the story and explains events through his own eyes, using the pronouns I and me. Rosie tells the entire story through her own eyes.

The Importance of Setting

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup takes place in an anonymous suburb. Readers can infer the setting from the details that the houses are detached and have porches. It is a pleasant neighborhood, dotted with parks and trees. However, the setting is not a central element in this novel because the plot could be set in any neighborhood, even a city, in which the neighbors have bonded with each other. The

key element in this setting is the friendship among the people on the street, not the precise location. This universality of setting gives the novel even greater appeal, for it inspires readers to do acts of kindness for their neighbors. These acts of kindness might include sharing a meal, teaching a child to cook, and looking out for each other's children, for instance.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Novels

Avi, *The Secret School*
Joan Bauer, *Hope Was Here*
Meg Cabot, *The Princess Diaries*
Jenny Carroll, *Shadowland*
Andrew Clemens, *The School Story*
Sarah Dessen, *Dreamland*
Kate Dicomillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie*
Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*
Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*
Carl Hiaasen, *Hoot*
Davida Wills Hurwin, *A Time for Dancing*
E. L. Konigsburg, *Silent to the Bone*
Gordon Korman, *No More Dead Dogs*
Gail Carson Levine, *Ella Enchanted*
Lois Lowry, *Gathering Blue*
Ben Mikaleson, *Touching Spirit Bear*
Louise Rennison, *Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*
Jerry Spinelli, *Loser*
Beatriz Vida, *A Library for Juana*
Jacqueline Woodson, *If You Come Softly*

Audio

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

DVDs and Videos

The Breakfast Club
Pretty in Pink
Sixteen Candles
St. Elmo's Fire
Ten Things I Hate About You

Nonfiction

Douglas Florian, *Winter Eyes*
Anna Grossnickle Hines, *Pieces: A Year in Poems & Quilts*
Tina Schart Hyman, *A Child's Calendar*
Paul Janeczko, *A Poke in the I*
Pat Mora, *Love to Mamá*

Internet

Sharon Creech home page

<http://www.sharoncreech.com/>

This part of the homepage contains Italian cooking recipes.

http://www.sharoncreech.co.uk/torelli_recipes.asp

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Sharon Creech's *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* should include these aspects:

Themes

- encouragement
- fate
- generosity
- humor
- kindness
- love
- blindness
- role-models
- friendship
- food

Motifs

- being jealous
- coping with a handicap
- cooking well
- expressing love through food
- using humor to defuse difficult situations
- experiencing kindness
- showing friendship
- learning new skills
- benefiting from role-models
- regretting past mistakes

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. I pretended he was my brother, only he was better than a brother because I chose him and he chose me. (p. 8)
(Bailey and Rosie, next-door neighbors, have been friends since childhood. They adore each other, but Rosie must learn how to cope with

the normal ups-and-downs of friendship. The situation is complicated by Rosie's temper and Bailey's blindness, which prevents him from participating in as many of Rosie's activities and routines as she would like.)

2. She says, You maybe can fool other people with that smart head of yours, but you can't fool Granny Torrelli. (p. 10)
(Granny Torrelli's wisdom and patience help Rosie learn to channel her feelings and actions in appropriate ways. Rosie learns a great deal from her astute grandmother.)
3. She frowns, a big clown frown and pretends to sob. Boo hoo ho, she says. That Bailey has made me molto, molto sad. Boo hoo hoo. (p. 12)
(Creech leavens the advice with humor, as we see in this scene. She also adds Italian words and phrases to help convey Granny's character. These foreign words can be easily figured out from context. Here, for example, readers can infer that "molto" must mean very.)
4. It seemed like a miracle! I wanted one of those dogs for Bailey! (p. 40)
(When Rosie discovers that some blind people can get seeing-eye dogs, she is determined to get one for Bailey. Since she is young, she does not stop to think that he might already know about seeing-eye dogs and have made arrangements to get one. Instead, she trains a stray dog she finds, with no success. The plan collapses even further when the dog's owner comes for it. This incident shows how much Rosie loves Bailey and how much she wants to help him. It also shows how little she understands about the world and about Bailey's complex feelings about his disability.)
5. And he bowed low and said, I hear really, really good. And I am your prince—Prince Bailey—and I come to your rescue. (p. 58)
(One day, some older girls attack Rosie. Bailey comes to her rescue. Rosie is astonished by his bravery and success, because she had always cast herself in the role of rescuer. This incident suggests to readers that Bailey has learned to deal with his blindness and will make his way in the world with success. It also shows that their friendship is reciprocal.)

6. Well, get over yourself, Rosie! (p. 63)
(In this incident, Rosie has learned Braille so she can communicate with Bailey. To her astonishment, this annoys him rather than pleases him. The repeated refrain "Get over yourself, Rosie," shows that Rosie must learn to consider issues from all sides and take everyone's feelings into account.)
7. That Granny Torrelli. Me, I always want to do things for Bailey because he can't see, things I think are too hard for him, like cracking the eggs. But Granny Torrelli is showing me that Bailey doesn't need so much help, that I should quit being such a take-charge Rosie. (p. 83)
(Rosie is beginning to understand her grandmother's lessons: it is important to let children learn so they become independent. Ironically, what Rosie does not realize is that she is undergoing the same process as Bailey is, thanks to Granny Torrelli's wise teaching.)
8. My ice queen has turned into a tiger, rumbling in me, wanting to pounce on that Bailey boy. (p. 91)
(Rosie is bitterly jealous of the new girl, Janine, whom she fears is a rival for Bailey's attention. The vivid imagery conveys her strong emotions.)
9. I describe what I see. (p. 123)
(Rosie is jealous of Janine. To Rosie's astonishment, a family with twin boys her age moves in across the street. This gives Bailey two rivals for Rosie's affection; Rosie has only one rival for Bailey's affection. Rosie is delighted at this turn of events, which underscores her life unpredictability.)
10. She pauses and says, again, but this time only to me, *Tutto va bene*. (p. 141)
(At the end of the novel, Granny says, "All is well." This refrain has run through the novel. It shows that all ends well, as indeed it has.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How did Bailey and Rosie meet and become friends?
(They are next-door neighbors and grew up together.)
2. What two foods do Rosie and her Granny make together?
(They make soup and pasta.)
3. What is Bailey's disability?
(He is vision-impaired.)
4. Who is Pardo?
(He was Granny's close friend in Italy. Pardo and Granny had a relationship like the one that Rosie and Bailey share.)
5. Why does Granny tell Rosie stories about her life?
(The stories help Rosie deal with her problems, especially her stubbornness and her relationship with Bailey.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why did the author include Italian words and phrases?
(They help establish Granny's character and flavor the narrative.)
7. What parts of the book did you find humorous? In what ways?
(Students are apt to find Rosie's jealously amusing. Many of Granny's stories are very humorous as well, especially the one when she cut her rival's hair.)
8. How does Rosie feel about Janine?
(At first, she is both flattered and a bit baffled that Janine wants to be her best friend, but later she becomes very jealous that Janine and Bailey like each other.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. Which of Granny's stories did you enjoy the most? Why?
(Most students are likely to say the story about Granny cutting her rival's hair is very funny because the incident backfired: the rival became even more beautiful with short hair!)
10. What function does cooking serve in the novel?
(It is an excuse for Granny and Rosie to be together, a way for Rosie to absorb her cultural heritage, and a way to bring the neighbors together to form an extended family.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Write a story about a special time you spent with your grandmother or another relative.
12. Working with a small group of classmates, list the qualities that make someone a good friend.

Across the Curriculum

Art/Music

1. Draw a picture of the dinner scene that closes the novel.
2. Make a collage showing the foods that you like to eat. If you cook different dishes with a family member, include some of the dishes that you make together.
3. Choose three songs that you think would make good background music for the dinner scene that closes the novel. Choose songs that the guests would enjoy hearing.
4. Draw or paint a new cover for the novel. Be ready to explain your choice of colors and shapes.
5. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main events.

Language Arts

1. The novel describes how to make a special soup, homemade pasta, and meat sauce. Write a recipe for a dish that your family likes to eat. If possible, make the dish for the family.

2. Imagine that one of Granny's friends, such as Pardo, retold one of Granny's stories. Choose one of Granny's stories and rewrite it from her friend's point of view.
3. What happens to Rosie, Bailey, and Granny ten years in the future? Write a brief chapter in which you describe their lives.
4. Learn some Braille. Teach what you learned to your classmates.
5. Imagine that you are Bailey's mother. Explain how your life has changed since Bailey's birth and the diagnosis of his blindness.
6. Bailey tells Rosie, "Get over yourself." This is an idiom, a phrase that cannot be taken literally. Write five idioms and their definitions.
7. Granny has many recipes for food. Write a recipe for a strong, lasting friendship. Use cooking terms such as "add," "blend," and "stir."

History/Social Studies

1. People who come to America from other countries, like Granny Torrelli, have to take a special test to become an American citizen. Find out about this citizenship test. Then take the test and see how much you know about America!
2. Draw a map of Italy, Granny's homeland.
3. Make a glossary of the Italian expressions that Sharon Creech uses in this novel. Next to each word, write its definition.
4. Write a biography of Louis Braille, the man who invented the Braille system.

Science/Math

1. Make a pamphlet about the Seeing Eye foundation. Explain how the dogs are selected, trained, and assigned to blind people. Also include information about how volunteers can get involved helping this organization.
2. Report on the difference causes of blindness. On a poster, show how people can help protect their eyes from injury.

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3. Millions of people have come to America, as Granny Torrelli did. Choose a year from 1950 to the present. Then make a chart showing the percentage of immigrants from each country who came to America during that year. You can find immigration statistics in an almanac and the U.S. Census Bureau (online).
4. Granny's friend Pardo is killed on the train tracks. Report on ways that people can protect themselves from accidents such as these.
5. Make a diagram or chart showing the number of people in America who are blind. Then use these numbers and the total U.S. population to calculate what percentage of all Americans are severely vision-impaired.

Speech/Drama

1. In a roundtable discussion, explore reasons why Rosie is jealous and ways that she can cope with her jealousy.
2. Debate whether or not the friendship between Rosie and Bailey will last as they grow up and go their separate ways.
3. Improvise a scene in which Bailey's father returns to his family. Have him explain the reasons for his absence. Also have him find out what he missed while he was gone.
4. Working with two other classmates, act out the pasta-cooking scene.
5. Granny tells some very funny stories to Rosie, but each story teaches Rosie something important about getting along with people. Create another story that Granny could tell Rosie to teach Rosie to deal with her jealousy and temper. Share it with a friend.
7. Imagine that you could interview one of Granny's friends from Italy whom she mentions to Rosie. Role-play the interview with a classmate.

Alternate Assessment

1. Write a character sketch for Bailey.
2. Create a "Granny Torrelli Makes Soup" board game, based on events in the novel. Include playing pieces, a board, and cards.
3. Read another novel by Sharon Creech and compare and contrast it to *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*.
4. Write a summary of this book as a dialogue.

Vocabulary

Complete the crossword puzzle with the following words from *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*.

Word Bank

straggle

fumble

Braille

swoon

wee

mutt

dazzling

mangy

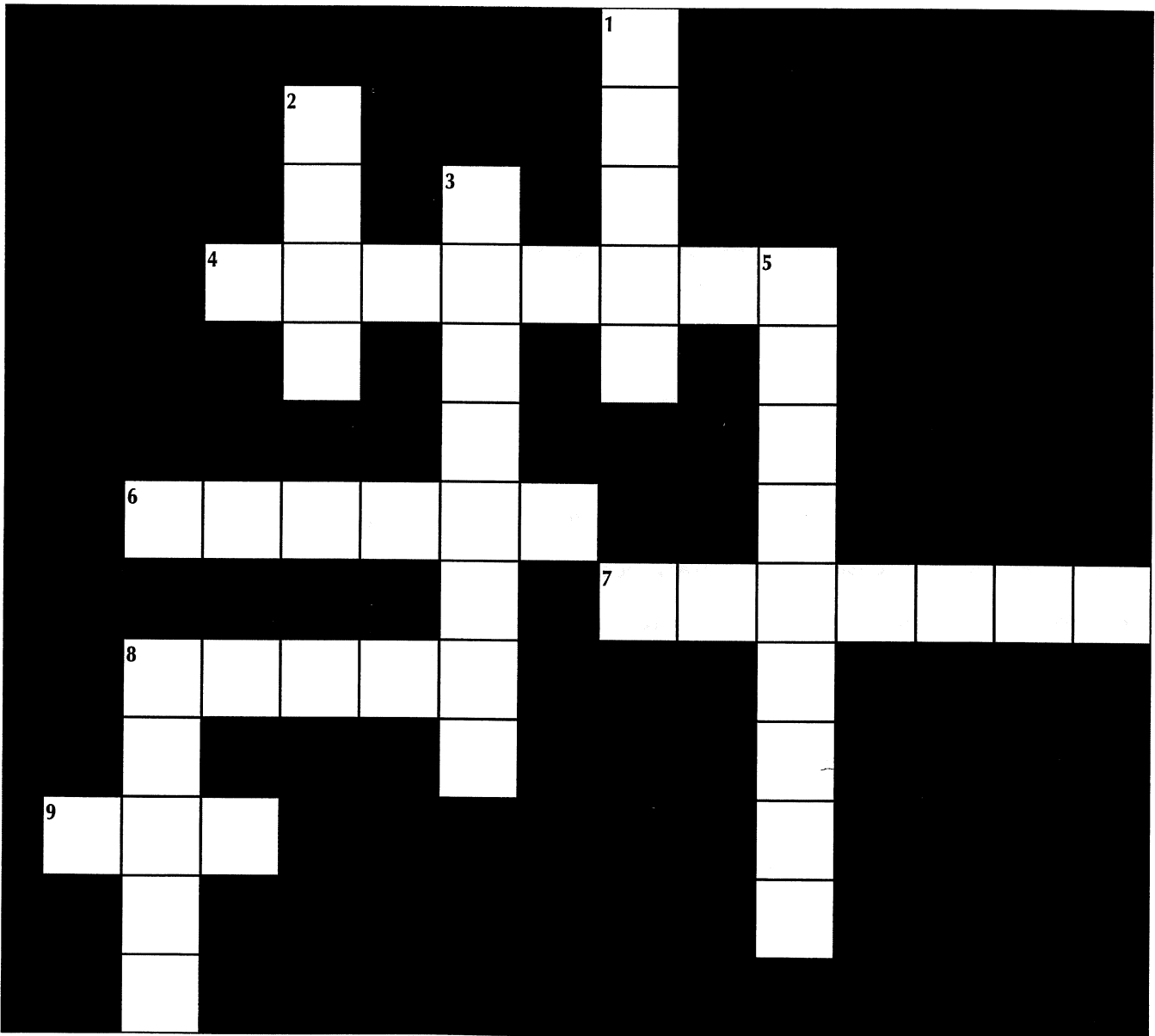
enchanted sleek

Across

- lag behind
- handle in clumsy way
- text system that uses raised dots
- faint
- very small

Down

- scruffy
- mixed breed dog
- brilliant
- magical
- smooth



Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

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Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match each description with a name from the list. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| A. Rosie | F. Janine |
| B. Bailey | G. Granny Torrelli |
| C. Sharon Creech | H. Carmelita |
| D. Pardo | I. Marlee |
| E. Violetta | J. Nero |

- ___ 1. the author of *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*
- ___ 2. Bailey's mother
- ___ 3. a dog from Granny's childhood
- ___ 4. the new girl who wants to be Rosie's best friend
- ___ 5. Granny's best friend in Italy
- ___ 6. the twelve-year old girl who is very stubborn
- ___ 7. Rosie's best friend in school
- ___ 8. Granny's rival in Italy
- ___ 9. The older woman who teaches Rosie about cooking and life
- ___ 10. Rosie's best friend, a vision-impaired child

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the term that best completes each of the following statements.

1. Granny tells Rosie a story about how she got angry at an intruder pretending to be a **(deliveryman, meter reader)** and beat him on the head with a broom.
2. Granny Torrelli comes over to make soup, which she calls **(pasta, zuppa)** with Rosie.
3. Rosie refused to go to **(school, the library)** because Bailey could not come with her.
4. Rosie and Bailey put on a play about a **(wife, husband)** deserting the family, which reflected the experience in Bailey's family.
5. Bailey can't have a guide dog until he is **(six, sixteen)** years old.
6. Rosie had learned **(Braille, sign language)** so she could read like Bailey.
7. Granny was born in **(Italy, France)** and moved to America.
8. Granny lets Bailey **(crack the eggs, measure the flour)** to make the pasta.
9. Granny explains how she convinced her rival Violetta to **(marry Pardo, cut off her hair)** but the plan backfired.
10. Rosie sees that **(triplets, twins)** around her age have moved in across the street.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each person, place, or thing and explain why it is important in the story.

1. tiger girl
2. Braille
3. soup
4. pasta
5. "A short walk that got very long"

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Which parts of *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* do you like the most? Why?
2. Summarize the plot (story line) of *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*.
3. Describe what you learned about friendship from this novel.
4. Compare and contrast this book to other books that you have read. How is it the same and different?

Comprehension Test B

Part I: True/False (20 points)

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if the sentence is false.

- ___ 1. Twelve-year-old Rosie's best friend is her next-door neighbor Bailey.
- ___ 2. When it becomes clear that Bailey is blind, Rosie does everything she can to help him
- ___ 3. Bailey refused to go to school because Rosie could not come with him.
- ___ 4. Bailey had once ripped up a Braille book that Rosie was reading because he resented that she had learned to read Braille.
- ___ 5. Bailey's father deserted his family.
- ___ 6. Rosie is easy-going and tolerant, not stubborn at all.
- ___ 7. Rosie tries to train a guide dog for Bailey.
- ___ 8. Bailey came to Rosie's rescue when she was ten years old and two older girls attacked her.
- ___ 9. A new girl named Violetta moves into the neighborhood and she and Rosie quickly become best friends.
- ___ 10. Granny tells a sad story about how the Gattozzi baby died from an illness.

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each person, place, or thing and explain why it is important in the story.

- 1. ice

- 2. blindness

- 3. cooking

- 4. "Tutto va bene"

- 5. the twins

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. Use each name only once.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| ___ 1. She gives Rosie lessons about cooking and life | A. Rosie |
| ___ 2. Granny's boyfriend in Italy | B. Nero |
| ___ 3. The author of <i>Granny Torrelli Makes Soup</i> | C. Carmelita |
| ___ 4. Pardo's dog | D. Granny Torrelli |
| ___ 5. Granny's rival in Italy | E. Janine |
| ___ 6. Rosie's best friend and next-door neighbor | F. Pardo |
| ___ 7. Rosie's best friend in school | G. Marlee |
| ___ 8. The twelve-year old girl who loves Bailey | H. Sharon Creech |
| ___ 9. The new girl, a rival for Bailey's affections | I. Violetta |
| ___ 10. Bailey's mother | J. Bailey |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe Bailey's disability and how he deals with it.
2. Explain how Rosie changes over the course of the novel.
3. Choose one of Granny's stories and explain what you learned from it.
4. Explain what function cooking fulfills in the novel.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

Across

4. straggle
6. fumble
7. Braille
8. swoon
9. wee

Down

1. mangy
2. mutt
3. dazzling
5. enchanting
8. sleek

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A |
| 2. H | 7. I |
| 3. J | 8. E |
| 4. F | 9. G |
| 5. D | 10. B |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. meter reader | 6. Braille |
| 2. zuppa | 7. Italy |
| 3. school | 8. crack the eggs |
| 4. husband | 9. cut off her hair |
| 5. sixteen | 10. twins |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. "Tiger girl" is the way Rosie describes herself when she feels very jealous and angry. The phrase captures her fierce, almost uncontrollable emotions.
2. Braille is the form of printing read by some blind people. It is a series of raised dots. Both Bailey and Rosie learn to read Braille.
3. Granny and Rosie make soup together. The process becomes a way for Rosie to learn to control her temper and jealousy. They share the soup with Bailey and his mother, an act of kindness, generosity, and friendship.
4. Granny, Rosie, and Bailey make pasta together. During the process, Rosie explores her feelings and learns a lot from Granny's stories. At the end of the novel, the pasta becomes the centerpiece of a family feast.
5. "A short walk that got very long" is how Bailey describes getting lost in the neighborhood.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part II: Identification (20 points)

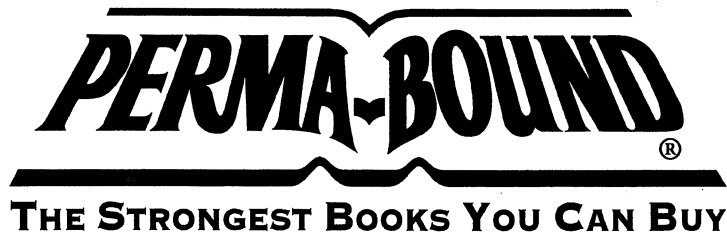
1. Ice is one of the metaphors that Rosie uses to describe her anger at Bailey. She feels frozen that he has become friends with Janine.
2. Blindness is one of the chief motifs in the novel. Bailey is literally blind, but Rosie is metaphorically blind to the effect of her smothering love.
3. Cooking is the vehicle for Granny to teach Rosie lessons about life and tolerance—as well as how to cook.
4. Granny says, "Tutto va bene," which means "all is well." She repeats this phrase to show her satisfaction at the way things are turning out.
5. A set of male twins around Rosie's age moves in next door. Rosie is thrilled because now Bailey has two rivals for her affection, whereas in Janine, Bailey has only one rival for her affection.

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. J |
| 2. F | 7. G |
| 3. H | 8. A |
| 4. B | 9. E |
| 5. I | 10. C |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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