

# A Sprinkle of Sadie

AUTHOR

**LANA SPASEVSKI**

ILLUSTRATOR

**JOANIE STONE**

SCIS: 5398479

ISBN: 9781922711045

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Say hello to Sadie ... a superstar baker with a big heart! In this book, Sadie needs to:

- throw a surprise birthday for her mum.
- help out at the Cookgrove fundraising day.
- welcome someone new to her class.

But Sadie's sweet intentions do not always go to plan! Her vanilla ice-cream cake for Mum is as flat as a pancake. Her cupcake stall has tough competition. And her welcome treat is not welcomed!

Can Sadie find a way to save the day? In these three sprinkle-filled stories (complete with recipes!) the unstoppable Sadie shows that any problem can be solved with generosity, kindness and, of course, a delicious baked treat.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lana LOVES writing kids' books just as much as Sadie LOVES sprinkles! Her writing is endlessly inspired by her young daughters, who she lovingly calls her little book butterflies. Lana spends many hours treasure hunting in bookshops and attempting messy home bakes. Before Lana started writing kids' books, she worked on creating brand stories for some of Australia's most favourite products, including developing ideas for new baking products. Now, she hopes to inspire a love of storytelling through her books and sensationally sweet characters.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Joanie Stone was born and raised in Virginia, where she still lives today with her husband and young daughter. She spends her days painting in her light-filled studio in the country, surrounded by nature. She uses her background in traditional hand-drawn animation to bring life and movement to her characters and fills her images with textures reminiscent of children's books from the past. She hopes her images will inspire kids to pick up a pencil and create their own worlds through stories and art.

## KEY THEMES

### Being Creative

Sadie loves to join her dad in baking delicious sweet treats. But Sadie doesn't just follow her dad's recipes...she makes up her own, too! Sadie shows creativity through coming up with new recipes that she knows her friends, family and community will love. And she also demonstrates creativity in solving the problems that she encounters along the way. This book is a great tool for discussing the meaning of creativity with young children, showing them that it can mean many things and that everyone is creative at heart.

### Solving Problems

Despite Sadie's best intentions, something tends to go wrong when she's baking a special treat. But while Sadie always has a wobble when her problems arise, she will also always think of an innovative solution to fix the problems and save the day. Seeing Sadie become upset shows that everyone can feel discouraged when something goes wrong, but seeing her solve the problems shows that everyone can turn things around if they have a positive attitude and a little creativity. This book is a beautiful demonstration of thinking about the different ways that problems can be solved and of approaching problems with optimism.

### Showing Kindness

Sadie is a kind child who always shows compassion for other people. She loves baking but she also loves being generous, so she combines the two! We see Sadie baking a special cake as a surprise for her hardworking mum, combining cupcakes to raise lots of money at the Cookgrove Fundraiser, and baking a sweet Easter treat to welcome her new teacher to class. This book can be used to discuss the many ways that we can show kindness, compassion and generosity to each other, and how we can use our skills to do good in the world.

## BEFORE READING

- Have a look at the front cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- Why might there be a chicken and balloons on the cover? Have a guess at the chicken's name!
- Why do you think the book is called *A Sprinkle of Sadie*? Are there sprinkles on the cover?
- Describe the character (Sadie) on the cover. Does she look like someone you would want to be friends with?
- Sadie has a passion for something. Can you guess what it will be? What clues suggest this?
- Is this the type of book you'd like to read usually?

## COMPREHENSION

### GENERAL

- Sadie has a coloured chalk streak in her hair. Is the colour, pink, blue or violet?
- Sadie's dad is a baker. What is Sadie's mum's job?
- What is Sadie's dog's name?
- What is Dad's nickname for Sadie?
- Who are Amber and Arlo and where do they live?
- Amber and Arlo are twins. Would you say they are very alike or very different? Describe some ways that they are alike and different to each other.
- In each of the stories, the ingredients that Sadie uses seem to talk to her. Are the ingredients actually talking to Sadie or is she imagining it? What type of things do the ingredients say? How does Sadie respond to them?
- Sadie comes across a few problems in this book. Does she become upset when things feel hard or go wrong? Can you find some moments in the book where this happens? Describe how Sadie looks and speaks in these moments.
- Sometimes Sadie can be a bit messy when she is baking! Can you find some moments in the book when Sadie's ingredients are on her hair, face or clothes?
- Sadie loves inventing new treats and coming up with her own ideas. Do you like to create new things too? What do you like to create?

**STORY-SPECIFIC****Story 1**

- Sadie plans to bake a surprise sprinkle cake that tastes like vanilla ice-cream. But Sadie forgets to include the self-raising flour and her cake is flat! What does Sadie do to solve this problem?
- Why does Sadie want to bake something special for her mum?
- What activity does Sadie ask Amber and Arlo to do in the lounge room?

**Story 2**

- Sadie wants to make cupcake icing that matches the colour of her mum's police uniform. What colour is Mum's uniform? What colour does Sadie's cupcake icing turn out like instead?
- What are Sadie, her family and Arlo and Amber hoping to raise money for?
- What are the colours of the cupcakes in Sadie's special Rainbow Cupcake Box?

**Story 3**

- Sadie wants to give a special treat to welcome someone new to her class. Who is the person that the class is welcoming?
- What else does Sadie plan on giving the new teacher along with the Easter cake?
- Does Sadie remember to give this present to her new teacher? What colour is now on the blue bracelet?
- Sadie, Amber and Arlo decorate the cake with easter eggs spelling out 'C.PS'. What does C.PS stand for?
- What is Ms Vellios' favourite colour? Why does Sadie like this?
- We meet some chickens! Can you name them?
- What is the Easter activity that Sadie and her classmates do with Ms Vellios?

**LITERACY**

- In Story 1, Sadie 'tips the ingredients into a bowl'. The word 'tips' is a verb and it means the same as the word 'pours' here. Look through Stories 2 and 3 and find some more verbs. Can you think of other verbs that could have been used in these moments?
- Sadie's mum is described as 'super brave'. These are adjectives. Can you think of adjectives to describe the other characters: Sadie, Dad, Butter, Amber and/or Arlo?
- In Story 1, Sadie's arms start to feel 'wobbly like a bowl of jelly'. Why are Sadie's arms feeling sore and wobbly?
- In Story 2, the icing piping tube 'explodes like a \_\_\_\_'. What does the icing tube explode like?
- Can you find some other fun descriptions that use the word 'like'?
- In Story 2, Sadie looks at the 'mountain of bare cupcakes' in front of her, ready to be iced. Why is the word 'mountain' used? What does it suggest about the number of cupcakes in front of Sadie?
- Sadie often thinks to herself. Can you find some moments when Sadie is thinking to herself. Does the writing look different to elsewhere in the book?
- Arlo sometimes speaks like a zombie. Can you find some of Arlo's zombie-speech?
- In Story 3, Arlo plonks his egg onto a metal spoon and it makes a sound: 'CLINK!' This word is onomatopoeia, which means that when you say it aloud, it sounds like the noise itself. There are some other types of onomatopoeia in this story. Can you find them?

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- When Sadie is happy or excited, her eyes sparkle and she smiles. Can you find some moments in the book when Sadie is unhappy. How does she look and feel in these moments?
- Does Sadie stay unhappy for long? Why not? What does this tell us about Sadie and her attitude to problems?
- Amber knows Sadie very well and can help Sadie feel better when Sadie feels upset. What types of things can you say to someone when they are upset?
- Sadie tells Arlo that he 'can't have cake for nothing'. What does Sadie mean when she says this? Do you ever ask your friends to help you with things? How do you thank them in return?

- Can you find all the times that Sadie feels happy in each story? How do you feel when you read that Sadie is happy and excited?
- When Sadie is baking, it is never just so that she has something nice to eat. Why else does Sadie bake the wonderful treats in this book? What does this say about Sadie?

### FINAL REFLECTIONS

- Which was your favourite Sadie story in this book? Why?
- Amber and Arlo are Sadie's best friends. Who are your best friends?
- Do you bake at home? If you do, who helps you?
- If Sadie was your best friend, what would you bake for her?
- What fun things do you and your friends like to do together?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?

### ACTIVITY

- Sadie invents sweet treats, like a sprinkle cake that tastes like vanilla ice-cream. Design a baked treat you might like to give your invention to. For example, your grandma might love chocolate and oranges, so you are going to invent a new type of chocolate orange biscuit just for her. Draw the ingredients and the finished product and share with the class.