

Batter Royale

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Secondary



SYNOPSIS

When seventeen-year-old small-town waitress Rose impresses a famous food critic, she and her best friend, Fred, find themselves thrust into the tough world of competitive baking. The contest is an intense ten days of bizarre challenges and the competition is cutthroat. Some competitors are willing to lie, cheat and sabotage their way to the top. Rose may be in over her head, but she is determined to show that she can become a top chef.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Leisl Adams is a director, storyboard artist and illustrator. Born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, she graduated from the Classical Animation program at Sheridan College in 2002. Since then, she has worked in television and film, animating and storyboarding for clients like Amazon, Disney XD, Teletoon, and CBC, and directed Season 2 of American Girl's *WellieWishers* for Mattel in 2018. She illustrated the graphic novel *Pixies* and has done illustration work for a number of publishers.

STUDY NOTES

- Who is your favourite character and why?
- *Batter Royale* is part comic book/part cookbook. What impact does this have for the reader?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of *Batter Royale* being a comic book rather than a novel?
- The characters in *Batter Royale* have big dreams. For Rose and Fred, answer the following questions:
 - What does the character want?
 - What is standing in their way?
 - How will winning the competition help them?
 - What does s/he learn?
- Nicole is painted as a villain, but she has her own reasons for wanting to win the competition. Write a diary entry from Nicole's point of view demonstrating her reasons for wanting to win the competition. It could be a diary entry from:
 - the day she finds out she has gotten into the competition.
 - the day after she sabotages one of the other contestants.
- What is your favourite restaurant/take away. What do you like about it?
- What kinds of foods do you and your family have during a celebration. Are there any traditions or special foods that

are prepared?

- Fred's mother owns a restaurant. What issues does she face as a restaurant owner?
- What qualities make Rose a good candidate for working in a kitchen environment? Which qualities do not?
- Rose and Fred are from Canada. They bake a cake using ingredients that represent their country. A country's cuisine is influenced by geography, climate, values and beliefs, and history. Select a country from the list below and research the cuisine found in that country:
 - China
 - Turkey
 - Afghanistan
 - Greece
 - Italy
 - France
 - Mexico
 - India.
 - What foods are commonly eaten?
 - What factors influence(d) the cuisines?
- Design and create a pizza that meets one of the following dietary requirements. Research what foods to avoid with each dietary requirement:
 - Vegetarian
 - Coeliac disease
 - Lactose intolerance.
- Participate in your very own Batter Royale! In pairs of small groups, design a cupcake to enter in The Great Cupcake Challenge. Select a theme for your cupcakes or alternatively a theme can be chosen for you to interpret. In your pairs or small groups, bake and decorate a batch of cupcakes. Students will present their cupcakes to the class and undertake a tasting of the other groups cupcakes. Once all the cupcakes have been presented, assess the other groups cupcakes giving them a mark out of 10 for both presentation and taste.