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The Lion's Share



Synopsis

When Ant receives a special invitation to dine with Lion, she is ready to be on her best behavior. During dessert, the other guests do not mind their manners, and by the time the dessert cake reaches Ant, barely a crumb is left for her to share with the King! Baking a cake seems like the perfect way to make it up to him . . . until the other guests turn her kind gesture into a contest. Exactly how many cakes are fit for a king?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #113,938 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards #231 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Manners #319 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 8

Customer Reviews

As a children's librarian, I picked this book, almost at random, to check out for my four-year-old grandson. After three months, I had to buy him his own copy, and even then he wanted to keep my library copy for downstairs and his new one for upstairs. This outstanding book offers everything. Yes, it book teaches fractions and exponents (did I mention the illustrations are Caldecott quality and the sophisticated humor wry?) It even teaches good manners, but it does all this while telling a story so convincingly that a four-year-old lays aside his set of Transformers to beg for more. The Lion's Share is shortlisted on my Best Books of the Year.

The ant had an invite to dine with the king and was determined to be right on time, but the rest of

the guests kind of ambled along and got there when they felt like it and were all late. When they started to eat the whole table looked like a food fight because the beetle the frog, the macaw, the warthog, the tortoise, the gorilla, the hippo and the elephant were making a big mess. Eat with your mouth closed, please! The only one who looked regal and dignified was the lion. For dessert the lion brought out a cake. Elephant, whose name should have been "pig" said "I could eat this in one bite, but that might seem greedy" and so he split it in half. Hippo took the remains of the cake, cut it down the middle "and handed the remaining one quarter of the cake to the gorilla." Everyone around the table did the same thing. They didn't want to look too piggish so only took half of what they received and handed the remains on to the next guest. When it came time for ant to get her piece it was so small that it was just a couple of crumbs and she really couldn't divide it. What a hog, the other guests declared with disgust because the king hadn't gotten a slice. When she offered to bake a cake, the offer was doubled, doubled and doubled many times by the others. Two, four, eight, sixteen . . . two hundred and fifty-six "peanut-butter pound cakes." Can you guess who got stuck making all those cakes? This was a fun little fable that not only gives a little lesson on manners, but also painlessly introduces basic elementary math concept of fractions. The marvelous illustrations provide a nice visual imagery so the child can easily "see" the cake being divided. The end pages show the division of the cake from the whole to $1/128$ th. If you want to see what two hundred and fifty-six peanut-butter pound cakes look like, you'll just have to buy this book!

Matthew McElligott is my new favorite children's author. His stories are free of violence, weapons, bullies and death yet full of fun, laughter and beautiful illustrations. The Lions Share is the adorable tale of a mouse joining the birthday celebration for the lion. As the birthday cake gets passed around, everyone takes a heaping share with no thought to those who are next. By the time the mouse gets the cake, there are only crumbs. Mouse promises lion to bake him a new cake. Not to be outdone, every other animal vows to make a cake as well and to bake more than the other (here comes in the clever math lesson). The ending is sweet and simple. Love him!

This is the fourth copy of this book we have purchased. It is a wonderful story that crosses manners with mathematics in a very entertaining and artfully drawn style. Its a great book for story time and its easy to read in the voices of the characters. The other wonderful thing about this story is that it grabs the attention of a wide age range since there are different things each age level can grasp.

This is a great book for introducing fractions. I was doing a two-day substitute job and brought this

book to introduce fractions to the students. The kids loved it! The students were confused because they thought $\frac{1}{8}$ would be a "big" piece, but when they saw the visuals the book provides they saw that it's actually a smaller piece. This is a great book to use in the classroom or for parents to read to their kids at home. The illustrations are also visually stunning!

The author has come up with a fun way to understand math, particularly fractions. This is underlined by bold illustrations of believable animals. Your children will want to read this book over and over again as they will learn something new every time.

Matthew McElligott's *THE LION'S SHARE: A TALE OF HAVING CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO* tells of a small ant invited to a lion's dinner party. She's on her best behavior, but the other partygoers don't share her manners and are greedy, leaving her nothing but a crumb to share with her host. Can her offer to bake another cake turn the tables on greed? An unexpected result makes for a fine story.

As a dad of girls (and former elementary school teacher), I'm always looking out for books that teach math in a fun, non-didactic way. This is the best one of I have found. First of all, it's a great story with wonderful art and hilarious animal characters. Second, it gets kids to understand fractions and exponents without even realizing it. My five year-old gets the math, while my three year-old can recite the story front to back. I wish he'd write some more like this!

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