

Book Club 4/13/2020

## **Thunder Cake**

by Patricia Polacco

So many verbs! The author used many different verbs to make the story interesting and to help the reader “feel” and “hear” the story.

Instead of using the verb said:

cooed  
stammered  
crowed  
exclaimed  
croaked  
whispered

Instead of saying the thunder was loud and the lightening was bright:

shook the house  
rattled the windows  
flashed  
slit the sky  
crashed  
bellowed  
growled  
rumbled

Instead of using the verbs walk or run:

strode  
scurried  
crept

Other verbs of interest:

drew a deep breath  
grab her close  
surveyed  
fingered  
penned  
gather  
peck  
spread out the tablecloth  
beamed

And a few interesting adjectives:

loud clap of thunder  
worn hands  
creased spot  
jagged edge of lightning  
secret ingredient  
overripe

luscious  
glistening

**Discussion questions:**

What is your first reaction to the story?

Does the story remind you of something in your life?

How did Patricia's grandmother help her overcome her fear of thunderstorms?

Was Patricia only afraid of thunderstorms?

Has someone helped you overcome a fear?

Have you helped someone overcome a fear?

Have you overcome a fear on your own (without help)?

Some people are having trouble buying flour right now. The store shelves are sometimes empty because many people are baking cakes and cookies and bread while they are staying at home. Why do you think many people bake during a pandemic (or a thunderstorm)? Have you ever baked when you were worried or unhappy?

Do you have a recipe with a secret ingredient?

Is this a book you would like to share with a child you know? Why or why not?