

# Dumplings for Lili

By Melissa Iwai


## The Lesson

**Lesson plan by:** Mia Hartley Phillips

**Length of Lesson:** 45 minutes  
*(can be adjusted by eliminating \* items to 15-30 minutes, depending on students needs)*

**Objective/Brief Description:**

Sharing cultural ideas of family, food, and friendship.



Check out the Learning and Literacy Profile of the ready kindergartner

## Materials

**Materials Provided:** colored paper, copy paper, crayons, plastic play food items (including bao/dumplings), dress up items.

**Materials From Home:** additional dress up items, and cookies (optional)

## INTRODUCTION:

### **At a location where the students come to you instead of traveling to their classroom:**

Begin outside the room and give each student a "Magic Key" (*a crayon*). This is the key to their imagination. At the door, each student is asked the question, "Do you know a grandmother?" "How does she walk, talk, etc.?"

### **Offsite where student(s) are already in the classroom or at home:**

Have them sit in a circle in their regular "group space." Ask the questions, "Do you know a grandmother?" "What do you call your grandmother?" Have them act out something they would do with their grandmother.

*\*Students can take turns going behind a curtain, shelving unit, or whatever is available to create an entrance and exit stage area. The student enters, crosses to the center, says their name, and acts out something they enjoy doing with a grandmother, aunt, godmother, etc. (if they don't have a grandmother). Afterwards, the audience applauds and the student bows and exits.*



## **LET'S GET MOVING:**

Some people love cooking with their grandmother. Let's pretend to cook something together. Ask the students for ideas of something to cook. Settle on cookies (everyone will have the chance to add their favorite ingredients to the cookies).

Now it's time to make some cookies. Have the students to tell you what ingredients you need (*i.e. flour, sugar, butter, eggs, etc.*). Pantomime with the students getting each ingredient out of the cabinet, pantry, fridge, etc. Put all of the ingredients on the counter and realize you are missing one very important ingredient. "Oh no!" Ask the children, "What are we going to do?"

Listen to their suggestions and then say, "I think we need help." "Where can we find help sometimes?" After they give suggestions, if they haven't suggested a book, say, "We can look for help in books, too!"

## **TRANSITION:**

Have students make suggestions for ways to travel to the library. Act out each one until you arrive at the library.

## **READ THE STORY:**

Read *Dumplings for Lili* by Melissa Iwai

## **IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND HOW TO SOLVE IT:**

Wow, Lili had lots of grandmother friends in her apartment building. She got to visit with each one and then they all had a delicious meal. But why did Lili have to visit all of the grandmothers? What did she need?

After the students work out the problem and how it was solved, tell them that you can do that for your missing ingredient, too. Measure and add in each ingredient. Pantomime each step with the students, including measuring, mixing, preheating the oven, and measuring out 12 cookies (*this provides a chance to practice counting skills*). Count the cookies as you scoop each one onto a baking pan. Put them in the oven to bake.

Ask the students if they have a favorite food to eat with their family. Hand out paper and crayons provided and have them draw a picture of their favorite food while we wait for the cookies to bake.

## **END OF CLASS:**

The cookies are ready! Take them out of the oven and pretend to put them with their pictures of the food they drew. Time to head to our party.

End with a dinner and cookie party. Invite the students to act like different people bringing their favorite food to a party. Students can line up and pretend they are arriving one at a time. Each student announces what food they brought to share. They can show the different characters/foods by using some of the provided props and costume pieces, or items from home. At the end, everyone sits down and enjoys the food! Everyone takes turn clapping as the audience and bowing as an actor.



Thank you for taking a few minutes to fill out this survey.

