



Sharing the Bread: An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Story

Pat Zietlow Miller , Jill McElmurry (Illustrations)

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Celebrate food and family with this heartwarming Thanksgiving picture book. *We will share the risen bread. / Our made-with-love Thanksgiving spread. / Grateful to be warm and fed. / We will share the bread.* In this spirited ode to the holiday, set at the turn of the twentieth century, a large family works together to make their special meal. Mama prepares the turkey, Daddy tends the fire, Sister kneads, and Brother bastes. Everyone—from Grandma and Grandpa to the littlest baby—has a special job to do. Told in spare, rhythmic verse and lively illustrations, *Sharing the Bread* is a perfect read-aloud to celebrate the Thanksgiving tradition.

"A warm and wonderful holiday treasure." —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

"A paean to the pleasures of Thanksgiving, with rhymes so musical readers may just burst into song." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"A delightful holiday book that shows the heartwarming tradition of food and family." —*Booklist*

Sharing the Bread: An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Story Details

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Author : Pat Zietlow Miller , Jill McElmurry (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Sharing the Bread: An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Story for online ebook

? Kimberly says

Sharing the Bread by Pat Zietlow Miller and Jill McElmurry shares an old-fashion Thanksgiving story of a family working together to prepare for the feast. Delightfully illustrated it shows a classic 19th century American family at Thanksgiving. Everyone in the family participates in preparing for the big event. The children make festive placemats and grandma bakes the pies. The text is simple and geared for those four to eight years of age. The colorful illustrations combined with catchy sentences make it easy to read to children of all ages. It's the perfect book to bring to your next Thanksgiving celebration. It shares working together, celebrating and family. I loved that each person no matter how small had an important job to do.

Copy provided by publisher. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Teri says

A fun one to read aloud because of the rhyming. It shows the family preparing Thanksgiving dinner.

Beth (YA Books Central) says

First of all... I LOVE the holidays so when I was given the opportunity to review Sharing The Bread then I immediately accepted. Sharing The Bread is a beautiful description of the meaning behind Thanksgiving. It has simple yet beautiful illustrations that will appeal to not only the young audience but everyone.

Sharing The Bread expresses how to have the whole family involved in the process and traditions that go along with Thanksgiving. Each member of the family has their own job and they all work together to bring Thanksgiving to the family.

My favorite quotes from the book state:

"Food and loved ones. We are blessed."

*"Fold, shout, sit and pray,
All together on this day."*

Laura (Book Scrounger) says

I love Thanksgiving! This simple book fills me with nostalgia. Full review here:

<https://www.theproblemsite.com/book-s...>

Sara Grochowski says

Upon my first reading, I completely fell in love with this collaboration from Pat Zietlow Miller (Sophie's Squash) and Jill McElmurry (Little Blue Truck). Thanksgiving was always an important holiday within my family, as it was one of the celebrations that always brought my extended family together. Like in *Sharing the Bread*, Thanksgiving was characterized by action, a crowded, busy kitchen, and the faces of parents, siblings, grandparents, and aunts and uncles. The illustrations depict a turn of the century setting, making this a great pairing for *A Fine Dessert*!

Sally says

I liked the rhyming text that describes how the members of a family (probably late 1800s) prepare for Thanksgiving.

Calista says

The art is warm and cozy with warm earth colors. You can almost smell the food. It is also warm in the sense that the story is about a family that is very close and working together for the Thanksgiving meal. Everyone is contributing.

It's a nice warm rhyming story about the importance of family at Thanksgiving. It has an old fashioned style and cloths - with old fashioned kitchen-ware too.

Kathryn says

All done in rhyme, the story flows easily. All about the family effort to get Thanksgiving food on the table.

Heather says

I expected a cute old-fashioned, simple story of Thanksgiving with this book.
On the first page I knew I wouldn't like the writing. I really don't like repetition.
'Mama, fetch the cooking pot.
Fetch our turkey-cooking pot.
Big and old and black and squat.
Mama, fetch the pot.'

On the second page I realized the first two lines ended with the same word, the third one ended with a word that rhymed, and the last one ended with the same word used in the first two lines.
'Daddy, make the fire hot.

Tend it so it's blazing hot.
Ready for the cooking pot.
Daddy, make it hot.'

The line 'Daddy make it hot' was a bit uncomfortable to read.

As I read along, with this kid just telling everyone what to do, he just came across as bossy and annoying to me. Telling everyone do this, do that.

Based on the cover, it looked like there was only the mom, dad, boy, and girl. Suddenly there was a brother. Then there's grandparents. As if that wasn't enough, there's more characters, more people for the boy to boss around. He was just a pest to me.
An aunt comes into the picture, an uncle.

The line that really annoyed me was:
'Brother, baste the turkey well.
Baste that turkey well.'
It just doesn't make for good reading.

Also, another line was annoying and not pleasant to read.
'Grandpa, cook the berries, please.
Boil those bright red berries, please.
Add some lemon--just a squeeze.
Grandpa, cook them, please.'
Please wasn't the word to use. It's just weird to beg someone to cook berries.

At times the phrasing made the kid sound demanding.
'Grandma, make the pie.'

'Auntie, mash potatoes now.
Just like Grandma taught you how.
Top with butter from our cow.
Auntie, mash them now.'

The rhyme with the uncle wasn't pleasant either.
'Uncle, swing the cider jug.
Swing that gallon cider jug.
Pour a drink in every mug.
Uncle, swing the jug.'
Swing isn't the right word to imply he's pouring it. It sounds like he's going around swinging the cider jug.

There's even a baby thrown into the mix. Not even the baby is exempt from this boy's demands. He asks the baby to be a sleeping mouse.

The boy finally pitches in, but it's to make paper pilgrim hats as placemats. There were a couple scenes with the boy appearing to wash dishes and another time he was stirring something, but other than that and making paper hats, he just told everyone else what to do. He would be getting on my nerves if I was them.

It ended with everyone sitting down at the table, saying 'We will share the risen bread.'

Our made-with-love Thanksgiving spread.
Grateful to be warm and fed.
We will share the bread.'
It was a nice note to end on.

The tone made me read in this sing-songy voice, annoying voice, and it didn't help things out. It just made the whole thing annoying, but that's how the book read to me.

The writing ruined this for me. Without the repetition, it could have been good.

The illustrations were ok. I really liked the way the fire in the coal stove looked, like gold dust. And the herbs hanging on the wall were cute.

Tasha says

Told in rhyme, this picture book is a celebration of a family preparing Thanksgiving dinner together. The nineteenth century American traditions echo our modern ones closely. Readers will see the turkey go into the wood-burning oven. Dough for the bread is kneaded and allowed to rise. There is cranberry sauce made on the stove and a pumpkin pie with hand-whipped topping. Mashed potatoes are added to the feast as well as a jug of cider. Soon everyone is gathered around the table and prayers are said together. It's an American Thanksgiving done in true traditional style.

The rhyming stanzas evoke a feeling of a jaunty folksong as they tell the story of a family making their Thanksgiving dinner. The rhymes create a great rhythm to the book, that will have toes tapping if they are read with enough snap and vigor. The rhyme and rhythm combine to create a strong framework for the book, one where there is a building anticipation for the meal and for the family to all arrive. There are extended family present, including adult siblings, aunt, uncle and grandparents. Throughout, there is lots of work to be done but it is all done in good cheer and everyone lends a hand.

McElmurry's illustrations have a folkart quality to them that works well. Done in paint, the illustrations are simple and warm, inviting you back in time to share a meal that is familiar to everyone. There are lots of period details in the images such as water pumps, dried herbs in bunches on the wall, a wash tub, and large cast iron pots and pans.

Warm and flavored with tradition and love, this book is as gratifying as a fresh loaf of bread. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Chris says

I love to check out the new holiday picture book offerings - especially Thanksgiving, which has become so over-shadowed by Christmas and Black Friday! So it was fun to peek at this new picture book today. Sharing the Bread is set in the late 19th century, is simple and sweet, with lovely rhyming, rhythmic verses. Everyone in the family has a job to do in preparation for the meal. The only religious overtones are at the end when the double-page spread depicts the entire family holding hands around the table. "Fold. Shout. Sit. Pray. All together on this day." A lovely book.

Melki says

Delightful story, told in rhyme, of a family's preparations (and anticipation of) their Thanksgiving feast.

**Mash. Top. Pour. (And rest.)
Food and loved ones. We are blessed.**

paula says

Your next traditional Thanksgiving picture book. Reminiscent of Ox-Cart Man.

Lisa says

What a joy! This book is great and simple, yet it explores how thanksgiving used to be. I loved it.

Kimberly says

Darling! Really enjoyed this rhyming portrayal of a family coming together to prepare and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Wonderful pictures too.
