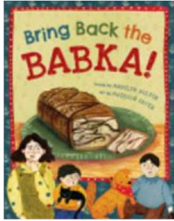


The Horn Book Inc.



PREMIUM

Bring Back the Babka!

By Marilyn Wolpin; illus. by Madison Safer

Primary Barefoot 32 pp.

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by Shoshana Flax Nov 06, 2023

Rabbi Sally is coming for Shabbat dinner, and Mama's freshly baked babka has disappeared. Young Sammy and Sol's ensuing search around the neighborhood quickly establishes a pattern: their neighbors haven't seen the babka, but each offers the brothers some of what they've been cooking, along with related advice – cholent, stuffed grape leaves, and gefilte fish are all “a lot like life,” it turns out. The “Stone Soup”-style Shabbat solution warmly celebrates food and community. (The cooks exhibit diversity in ethnicity, age, and dress, but all present as women; the author's dedication pays homage to the women in her family.) Illustrations in water-based paints, gouache, and pencil show a cheery neighborhood, especially its kitchens. Information on the dishes in the book, from all over the Jewish diaspora, is appended, along with author and illustrator notes and, of course, a babka recipe. SHOSHANA FLAX