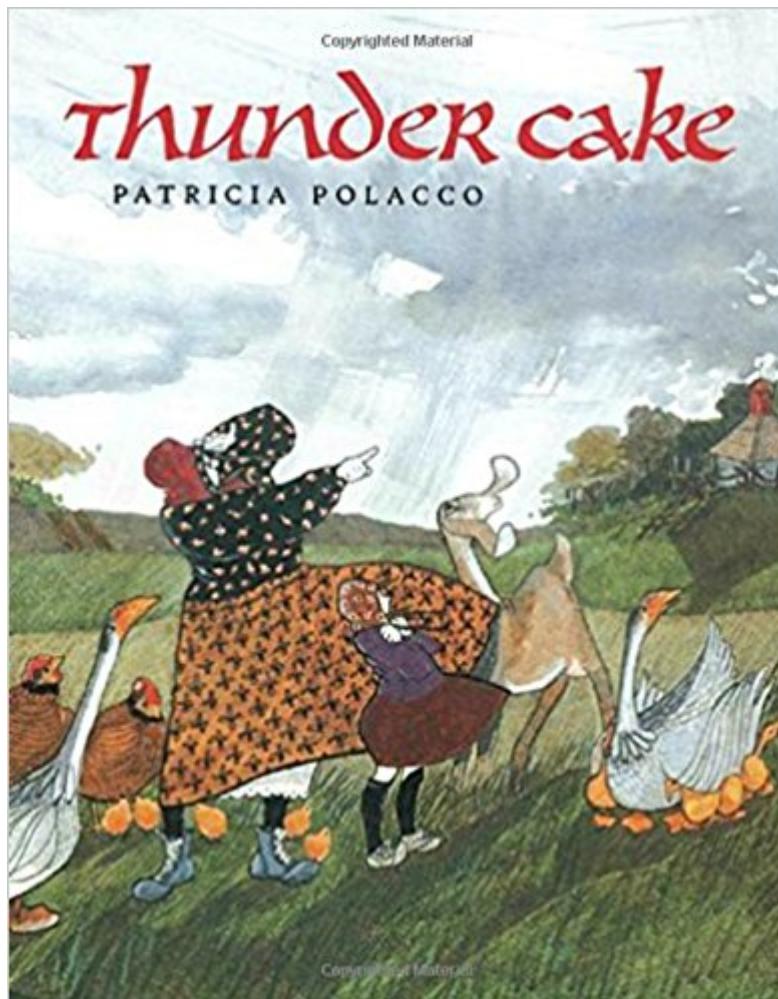


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# Thunder Cake



## **Synopsis**

A loud clap of thunder booms, and rattles the windows of Grandma's old farmhouse. "This is Thunder Cake baking weather," calls Grandma, as she and her granddaughter hurry to gather the ingredients around the farm. A real Thunder Cake must reach the oven before the storm arrives. But the list of ingredients is long and not easy to find . . . and the storm is coming closer all the time! Reaching once again into her rich childhood experience, Patricia Polacco tells the memorable story of how her grandma--her Babushka--helped her overcome her fear of thunder when she was a little girl. Ms. Polacco's vivid memories of her grandmother's endearing answer to a child's fear, accompanied by her bright folk-art illustrations, turn a frightening thunderstorm into an adventure and ultimately . . . a celebration! Whether the first clap of thunder finds you buried under the bedcovers or happily anticipating the coming storm, Thunder Cake is a story that will bring new meaning and possibility to the excitement of a thunderstorm.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0630 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (August 25, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698115813

ISBN-13: 978-0698115811

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 174 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,813 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #36 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #175 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

In Thunder Cake , a grandmother helps her granddaughter overcome her fear of thunder by baking a special cake while a storm threatens. Although the book's concept is good, it does not fulfill its

promise. The story is poorly paced: the storm approaches rapidly, but does not break for several pages as Polacco crams in details, including a lengthy pause while the cake bakes. The illustrations are less than appealing: both characters' faces are chalky white, draining them of life. Many of the barnyard animals are drawn out of proportion--Grandmother is almost the same size as a cow she milks, geese are as tall as people. Considering how many children are afraid of thunder, it is a shame Thunder Cake is not a stronger effort. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

K-Gr 3-Although Robinson couldn't swim, his daughter affectionately recounts how he bravely tested the ice near the family's Connecticut home so that his children and their friends could play on the frozen lake. Nelson's expressive illustrations rendered in pencil, watercolor, and oils add to the richness of the story. (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

My toddler son became very frightened of thunderstorms after our (long) walk home left us caught in bad storms on two occasions. It started to become a major worry of his that it might storm. I found this book and it worked beautifully! I knew the author from her other books and we read the book when it arrived. The pictures are charming and the story sweet and simple. My 3 year old was able to understand it easily. The next time we had a thunderstorm, we rushed to make a cake! He loved to share it with some neighbors and now talks about how wonderful thunder cake is. He still notices storms, but we recently had a major storm while we were running errands and it was no big deal! I'm still amazed how well this worked when coupled with a cooking activity at home!

I remembered this book from my grade school days and thought it was about time to get it for my own childrens' library. It's just as sweet as I recall, and the kids really enjoyed counting with the narrator as the storm moves closer. Bonus recipe in the back of the book, but as I recall it was a bit dry. I'm looking forward to making the Thunder Cake with my kids and seeing how well it turns out!

Reinforces the importance of investing time in developing creative methods of addressing scary issues little children are faced with....helping them confront, deal with, and put closure on....Turning frowns into smiles...I grew up fearing thunderstorms to the point I would throw up...The adults in my life brushed it off and assured me I would grow out of it.....BUT I didn't...Then I got married and moved to an isolated farm located in a clearing in the woods of very rural Maine. Taking my

thunderstorm fear with me...Becoming the mother of .6 little boys, forced me to dig into my pocket of creative treasures and help my children learn to enjoy the beauty, rather than the fear, of THUNDER AND LIGHTENING..by gathering them together under a Grammy quilt, counting..."One monkey, two monkey, three monkey".between lightening strikes and claps of thunder....while munching on chocolate chips and raisins in paper cups, sharing happy time stories... and hugs....I wish I had thought of making a THUNDER CAKE....I especially enjoyed the illustrations...This is a very well written book I look forward to sharing with my GREAT GRANDCHILDREN...and my adult children.....

Thunder Cake is the book that introduced me to the world of Patricia Polacco. I had the opportunity to hear this book being read to a group of elementary school age children (3rd - 5th grade). The children paid close attention as the story unfolded. When the book ended, a lively discussion of the story's events took place. The children talked about their experiences dealing with frightening storms. They recalled time spent with beloved grandparents and other important adults in their lives. They really enjoyed Thunder Cake! Ms. Polacco is a gifted story teller and illustrator. Since Thunder Cake, I've read several of Ms. Polacco's children's books. Many of the events in her stories reflect her own life experiences. I recently purchased Thunder Cake from for my 9 year old niece. She is an avid reader and I know she will enjoy this wonderful book!

As always, Patricia Polacco weaves a tale that is full of character, meaning and shows the importance of the older generation for the younger generation. My all time favorite children's author.

This is one of my favorite books for children. The illustrations are beautiful, the story is charming, and it includes a great recipe to make with your child/grandchild. I have given this book to others as a gift.

Cute book. I bought this for my kindergartener. It was in a list recommended by her teacher. My kids really enjoy it. We read it often.

Received a very nice copy of this book, I think it was a used book but in excellent shape. It arrived on time & packaged so there would be no damage - this is a book I used to read to my own daughter (& I have even made the Thunder Cake recipe that is at the back of the book) so I knew that she would love to have it to read to her own daughter now - very glad I purchased it!

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