



The Thank You Dish

By Trace Balla

Theme: Australia

Before reading the book, explore the end pages.

- Does this neighborhood look different from yours? In what way?
- Where is this book set? (Hint, look at the Kane Miller logo on the back cover.)
- What other things are different from your house or neighborhood?

Theme: Food/Community

- Where does your family get the food that's on your dinner table?
- Does your family grow any of your own food? Have you ever helped in the family garden? What did you do? Was it fun?
- Has your family ever shopped at a farmers' market? Describe what it was like.
- After planning a dinner of three or four foods, discuss how each food might have gotten to your plate. Who are the people who helped it get there? What kind of jobs did they do?

Theme: Sharing/Gratitude

- Do the members of your family share dinner together?
- Saying thank you is important to Grace and her mama. Do you agree? Why? How do you feel when you say thank you to someone? How do you feel when someone says thank you to you?
- Besides your food, what other things might you be thankful for?
- Is "giving thanks" different from saying thank you? If so, in what way?
- Can you think of other ways to say thank you besides saying the words?

Activities

- Draw a picture of your favorite dinner.
- Design, draw and color an imaginary garden, showing what you'd like to grow in it.
- Create a "Gratitude" or "Thank You" jar by decorating a container. Every day think of something that you're thankful for having or experiencing, write it down on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. Pick a special day, like your birthday, or a holiday like Thanksgiving, to open the jar and share all the slips with your family or a special friend or relative.