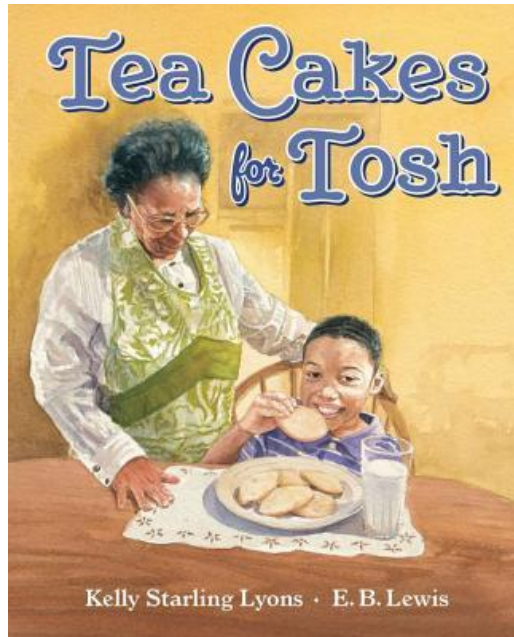


A Discussion/Genealogy Guide for

Tea Cakes for Tosh



Written by Kelly Starling Lyons

Illustrated by E. B. Lewis

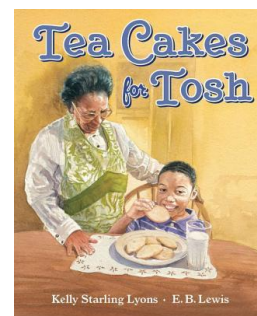
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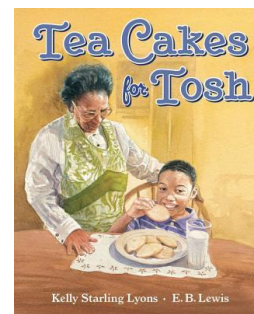
Pre-Reading Discussion Questions



1. Describe what you see on the front cover.
2. What are some of the colors used in the illustration?
3. Are the colors used in the illustration bright or dull?
4. What is the boy on the cover doing?
5. What is the boy's name? How do you know this?
6. Who is standing near the boy's chair? How do you know?
7. What has the person standing near the boy been doing? How do you know?
8. How does the person near the boy feel about him?
9. The boy is holding a cookie in his hand. Where did the cookie come from?
10. Was the cookie homemade or store bought? How do you know?
11. Where is the story going to take place?
12. What do you think will happen in this story?
13. What kind of a story do you think this will be? Happy? Sad? Tasty?

Post-Reading Discussion Questions

On the book's first page is an illustration of Tosh and his grandmother Honey at the kitchen table. Observe the illustration closely and answer the following questions:



1. How do Tosh and Honey feel about each other? How do you know?
2. What is Tosh holding in his hand?
3. Can you imagine what the tea cake smells like? Tastes like? Describe it.
4. Take note of the colors the illustrator chose to use in this painting.
 - a. Name some of the colors.
 - b. Are they bright and lively? Dull and hazy?
 - c. How do the colors make you feel?
 - i. Cheerful and happy?
 - ii. Sad and worried?
5. Honey is about to tell a family story that is true and happened a very long time ago. She says, "...our people were enslaved."
 - a. What does she mean by 'our people'?
 - b. What does she mean by the word 'enslaved'?
6. What do you think a 'story of courage' might be?

Turn the page, observe the illustration closely and answer the following questions:

1. Describe the illustration. What do you see?
2. Who is this woman? How do you know?
3. Where is this woman? How do you know?
4. What is she doing? How does she feel? How do you know?
5. Why do you think the illustrator chose to use shades of gray in this painting?
6. How do the colors make you feel?
 - a. Cheerful and happy?
 - b. Sad and worried?
7. Is the place featured in this illustration real or imaginary?
8. Is she in a dream or was she alive at one time? Is she real or imaginary?

But some days Grandma Ida made a few extra, just the right size for hiding in her pocket. She risked being whipped to give the children a taste of sweet freedom.

1. Why would Grandma Ida get in trouble for sharing tea cakes with the young slaves?
2. Do you find it hard to believe that Grandma Ida would have whipped for giving her children tea cakes?

3. Who would be doing the whipping?
4. Look closely at the illustration of Grandma Ida carrying a service tray. Notice the furniture, shiny door, stair case, and sheer drapes covering the window.
 - a. Where is Grandma Ida standing?
 - b. Whose house is she in?
 - c. What is she doing?
5. Compare this room with the cook house kitchen on the previous page.
 - a. In what ways are these rooms similar?
 - b. How are these two rooms different?
6. What does the line 'sweet freedom' mean to you?

Over time, Tosh didn't just imagine the journey, but he remembered the words just as Honey told him.

1. What is meant by the word 'journey' in this sentence?
2. Do you think, in a way, that Honey's story has become a part of Tosh? How so?
3. Do you think, in a way, that Tosh has become a part of the story? How so?

Turn to the page featuring Tosh and Honey carrying grocery bags in a crowded parking lot. Observe the illustration closely and then answer the following questions.

1. In the parking lot illustration, what has happened to Honey and Tosh?
2. How does Honey feel? How do you know?
3. How does Tosh feel? How do you know?
4. Though the bright sun reflects off of an SUV's windshield, this illustration is dark in blue and gray shades.
 - a. Why do you think the illustrator decided to use dark tones in this illustration?
 - b. What mood is being set by the color choices?
5. The text reads 'things went wrong'.
 - a. What kinds of things went wrong?
 - b. How was the trouble solved?
6. Notice the artwork on the following page. Do you notice any similarity in the illustrations?
 - a. What is happening to Honey?
 - b. Who is helping Honey solve her problem?
7. How do the dark tones make you feel? Do you think that, maybe, Honey feels the same way?

Observe the illustration of Honey bent over the table with Tosh at her side.

1. What is happening here?
2. What 'ran away' from Honey?

3. How is Honey feeling in this picture?
4. How does Tosh feel?
5. Notice the dark tones used by the illustrator.
 - a. What mood is the illustrator setting with the color choice?
 - b. Are there any bright tones, at all, in this picture? Why not?
6. Who helps Honey remember?

Turn to the page featuring Tosh and his mothers are talking. Consider Tosh's troubled expression and then answer the following questions.

1. Are Honey's memories turning hazy? How do you know?
2. How is Tosh responding to Honey's forgetfulness?
 - a. Is he teasing her? Impatient? Ashamed of her?
 - b. Is he being kind to her? Understanding? Helpful?
3. How do you think Tosh feels about Honey's forgetfulness?
 - a. Frightened? Sad? Worried?
 - b. Do you think he's concerned that he may lose a good friend?
4. What about the story of the tea cakes? Will it be forgotten, too?

The next day, when he visited Honey, Tosh told her he had a surprise.

"Could you close your eyes, please?" he said.

1. In a way, Tosh brought two surprises with him to share with Honey. Can you think of what they may be?
2. Notice the gentle way Tosh spoke to Honey, politely asking her to close her eyes.
 - a. What does his behavior say about his feelings for Honey?
 - b. How is Tosh being thoughtful? Respectful? Caring?
 - c. How does Tosh's behavior help Honey?
3. What happens when Tosh begins to tell the special story of the tea cakes?
4. What does Honey see? What does Tosh help her to remember?
5. Why is the tea cake story so special?
6. Why is the tea cake story important to remember?
7. Whose story is it to tell now? Whose job is it to remember, never to forget?

Family Facts: A Tea Cake Tree Genealogy Booklet

Objective: To discover information about the child's ancestry through the creation of a portable booklet.

Materials:

- Cardstock or stiff paper
- One ring binder or a brass brad
- Scissors
- Pencil or pen
- Hole punch

Procedure:

1. Print booklet sheets on cardstock or stiff paper (pages 9 to 12).
2. Trim booklet sheet edges.
3. Fill in the family member information printed on booklet sheets.
 - a. On the line that reads **Name** write the family member's full name – first, middle, and last.
 - b. On the line that reads **Birth/Death** write the dates that the family member was born and died.
 - i. Be certain to write the month, day and year, if that information is available.
 - ii. If that information is not available, simply note the year of birth and death.
 - iii. If the family member is still living simply note their birth date.
 - c. On the line that reads **Place of Birth** write where that family member was born.
 - d. Notice the gender symbols on the lower right corner of the cards.
 - i. The pink female symbol represents the maternal side of the family lineage.
 - ii. The blue male symbol represents the paternal side of the family lineage.
4. Use the following sources as reference:
 - a. Interview family members.
 - b. Search through family photo albums
 - c. Research family members using a variety of genealogy research sites such as:
 - i. Family Search at <https://familysearch.org/>
 - ii. Ancestry.com at <http://www.ancestry.com/>
 - iii. Genealogy.org at <http://www.genealogy.org/>
 - iv. Black Family Genealogy and History Society at <http://www.bfghs.com/index.htm>
 - v. The African American Research Tree Directory at <http://yourafricanamericanfamilytree.blogspot.com/>

5. Make note of any interesting fact about a family member on the back of their genealogy card.
 - a. What did the person do for a living?
 - b. Did they create something special during their lifetime?
 - c. Is there a funny story about this person you can retell?
 - d. Did they farm?
6. Punch holes in left side of pages.
7. Compile booklet by securing sheets together with a ring or a brad.

●

A Tea Cake Tree

Genealogy Booklet for




●

You

Your Name

Your birthday


Place where you were born


 **Father**

Name

Birth/Death

Place of birth





 **Mother**

Name

Birth/Death

Place of birth





 **Paternal Grandfather**

Name

Birth/Death

Place of birth





 **Paternal Grandmother**

Name

Birth/Death

Place of birth





 **Maternal Grandfather**

Name

Birth/Death

Place of birth




 **Maternal Grandmother**

Name

Birth/Death

Place of birth



Tea Cake Family Tree

Objective: To create a basic genealogical chart showing the ancestry and relationships between family members.

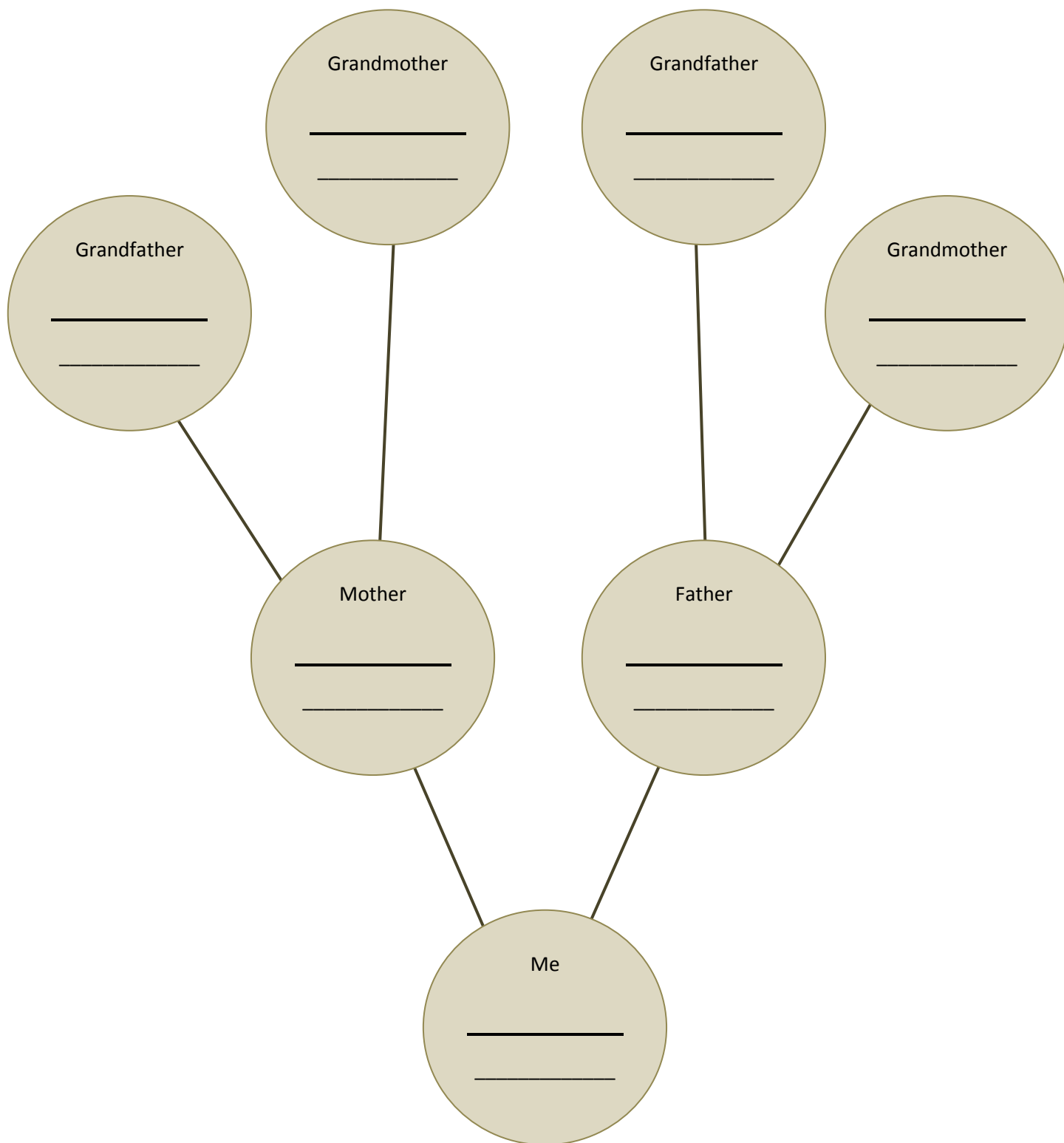
Materials:

- The print out found on page 14.
- Pencil or pen
- Completed Tea Cake Tea Genealogical cards found on pages 9 to 12.

Procedure:

- Using the completed Tea Cake Tree Genealogical cards as reference, write the appropriate family member's name in the specific spot designated on the Tea Cake Family Tree.
- Be certain to take note of maternal and paternal family members, being careful to place them in their names in the correct place on the chart.
- Using the completed Tea Cake Tree Genealogical cards and the Tea Cake Family Tree as references, tell the story of the uniquely special story of your heritage!

Tea Cake Family Tree



A Favorite Family Recipe

Objective: To discover recipes that is distinctive to the child's heritage – a long time, family favorite!

Materials:

- Recipe page printout found on page 16.
- Pencil or pen
- Old family recipe books and/or cards
- Utensils and ingredients necessary to make the chosen family recipe.
- Large index card (optional)

Procedure:

- Research favorite foods that are or have been enjoyed by one's family that have stood the test of time.
 - Recipes for cookies, cakes, side dishes, main dishes, or beverages – anything goes.
 - These recipes do not need to be complex. A simple salad or a favorite fruit will suffice.
- Create the recipe ingredient list and directions on the print out found on page 16 or on a large index card.
- Make the dish by following the recipe.
- Enjoy!

Follow Up Activity Suggestions:

- Celebrate Heritage Day!
 - In which the child presents their Tea Cake Family Tree to the class, or it has been posted on a classroom community bulletin board for display.
 - In which they have prepared their Favorite Family Recipe to share with others.
- Collect all of the Family Favorite Recipe cards and make a classroom heritage cook book.



Picture Perfect Memory

Objective: To honor a special family member by creating and decorating a framed picture of them.


Materials:

- Picture frame printouts found on pages 18 and 19
- Cardstock
- A 5 X 7 picture of a loved one
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape (optional)
- Found objects such as ribbon, buttons, shells, small sticks, etc.

Procedure:

- Print out pages 18 and 19 on cardstock
- For the picture frame backing, found on page 18:
 - Trim the bold outer edge of this rectangle to form the back of your picture frame.
 - To center your family photo, place it inside the dotted lines.
 - Once centered, you may tape or glue your photo to the frame backing.
- For the outer frame, found on page 19:
 - To create a picture frame, cut both the outer and gray inner portions of this rectangular shape.
 - Frame your family photo by placing the neatly trimmed rectangle over your family photo.
 - Secure with tape or glue.
 - Decorate the outer area of the frame with treasures of your choosing... shells, buttons, lace, ribbons – anything special.

Cherish forever!



Trim the bold outer edge of this rectangle to form the back
of your picture frame.

To center your family photo, place it inside the dotted lines.

Once centered, you may tape or glue your photo to the
frame backing.

To create a picture frame, cut both the outer and gray inner portions of this rectangular shape.

Frame your family photo by placing this neatly trimmed rectangle over your family photo.

Secure with tape or glue.

Decorate the outer area of this frame with treasures of your choosing... shells, buttons, lace, ribbons – anything.

Cherish forever!

Understanding Dementia

In the story *Tea Cakes for Tosh*, Grandma Honey is changing. She's becoming forgetful, overly tired, and disoriented. Grandma Honey is developing signs of dementia.

Dementia is defined as the deterioration of intellectual faculties resulting from a disorder in the brain. In other words, when people get old, lots of physical changes happen - hair turns gray, skin wrinkles, muscles become soft, and their brains change. Though many elderly people have fantastic memories, there are those who begin to lose their memory, sometimes become confused, move more slowly, and seem distracted or inattentive. These behaviors, and others, could mean that an elderly person is experiencing symptoms of dementia.

Observing the intellectual decline of a loved one can be a frightening thing. *Tea Cakes for Tosh* is an important story in that Tosh, the protagonist, embodies the typical emotional responses a child would experience in witnessing a loved one's gradual intellectual decline. Tosh also demonstrates thoughtful and respectful ways to respond to Honey's early stages of dementia.

- At the story's onset, Tosh is enjoying a special bond with his grandmother as she repeatedly shares a special story richly steeped in family history. Her story is one that cannot be forgotten, one that must live on forever. Tosh seems to understand the significance of the family story and the tea cakes which symbolize his family's journey to freedom.
- Honey becomes disoriented and forgetful, to the point of struggling to recall a simple sugar cookie ingredient, a recipe she has been making by heart for countless years. Worse yet, she's losing the story of the tea cake. Worried, Tosh sees this as a signal that something is wrong with Honey and cares for his own emotional needs by talking to his mother about his concerns.
- Tosh focuses on joy and kindness when he takes it upon himself to make a surprise batch of tea cakes for his grandmother. Plus, the story of his family's remarkable historic fortitude has now become his to tell. The story of the tea cakes and a family's quest for freedom will live on forever because of a boy's love for his aging grandmother.

A number of informative websites are available to access for more information about understanding dementia, a few of which have been listed below.

- PubMed Health: Dementia - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001748/>
- Mayo Clinic: Dementia - <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/dementia/DS01131>
- Dementia.org: What is Dementia? - <http://www.dementia.org/>
- Alzheimer's Association: What is Dementia? <http://www.alz.org/what-is-dementia.asp>

Acknowledgments

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www.kellystarlinglyons.com

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www.eblewis.com

Guide Creator: Debbie Gonzales

Simple Saturday

www.debbiegonzales.com

ReaderKidZ

www.readerkidz.com