

## **The Biscuit Maker**

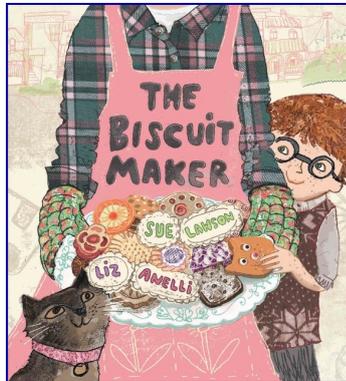
By Sue Lawson & Illustrated by Liz Anelli

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In Mavin Road there's no time for hellos or chats until a mysterious biscuit maker's magic brings everyone together. Benedict Stanley lives alone with his cat in Mavin Road where families hustle, joggers puff and workers scurry to the train. There's no time for hellos or chats. So Benedict begins making biscuits to mark moments in all their lives, leaving them secretly at their doors. People start talking. Who is this mysterious biscuit maker? When Benedict falls ill, young Rory, the only person to know his secret, gathers the residents of Mavin Road and brings them to his door. A beautiful heart-warming book that celebrates community and human connection.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Belonging
- Empathy
- Community
- Friendship

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is *The Biscuit Maker* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the cover of *The Biscuit Maker* and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.
- Why do you think Benedict Stanley didn't tell anyone he was the Biscuit Maker? Do you agree or disagree with his choice?
- A stereotype is a set idea about something or someone that a lot of people think, but may not be correct. From the dialogue we see, most people in Mavin Road assumed the mysterious Biscuit Maker would be a woman. Why do you think that is? What stereotypes might be at play?
- In what ways do Benedict Stanley and Rory show empathy in *The Biscuit Maker*? Why is it important to be kind to others, even to people you may not know very well?
- At the start of the book no one in Mavin Road even say hello to each other and by the end, they're all working together. How have Benedict Stanley's biscuits changed the neighbourhood and why? Do you think the neighbours on Mavin Road will go back to the way they were before? Why or why not?
- Do you know the people who live in your street? Think of something kind you could do for a neighbour, such as baking, writing a letter or drawing a picture. Ask an adults help to deliver your gift.
- Create a play based on *The Biscuit Maker*. Assign actors to play Benedict Stanley, Rory, Audrey Mae and the neighbours of Mavin Road. Other students can manage props (you'll need lots of prop biscuits) and effects (such as street noise). Perform your play as a class.