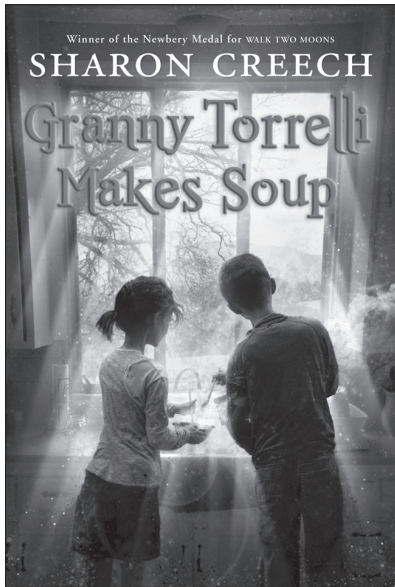


# GRANNY TORRELLI MAKES SOUP



## Setting the Scene

Rosie's lifelong best friend, Bailey, is blind. However, this has never mattered to Rosie—she has always found a way to get around any difficulties that have developed. But now that they're in different schools and have different friends, both Rosie and Bailey find themselves jealous of the new experiences they're unable to share together. They just can't seem to get along at all anymore, and Rosie doesn't know what to do to fix the problem. But Rosie's Granny Torrelli does! With a dash of humor and a pinch of wisdom, Granny Torrelli helps Rosie and Bailey discover the recipe for a lasting friendship.

## Before Reading

Much of *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* centers around Rosie's grandmother and the food that she and Rosie make together. Talk to your students about their extended family. Do they have any specific foods that they make together? What are they? Are they only made at certain times? Discuss how cooking together can make families closer.

## Discussion Questions

1. The preparation and consumption of food is an important element in the story. What role does food play in Rosie's life? Granny Torrelli's? The whole family's? Can you give examples?
2. Rosie describes herself as a tiger, a fox, and an ice queen to convey specific feelings she experiences. Which feeling is reflected by the tiger? The fox? The ice queen? Can you think of similar ways to characterize feelings that you face?
3. Granny doesn't just make soup; she makes sense. What are some of the secret recipes and "little miracles" that Granny performs (p. 112)?
4. How does Bailey's blindness affect his friendship with Rosie? What changes? What stays the same? How does their friendship differ from one between two people with sight?
5. Why do you think Granny Torrelli still harbors sadness and regret over the loss of her friendship with Pardo? What do you think she would do differently if given a second chance?
6. The experiences that Granny Torrelli dealt with as a young woman, such as her love for Pardo and her jealousy of Violetta, are very similar to those that Rosie and Bailey are facing now. Do you think Bailey and Rosie recognize these similarities? Do you think Granny Torrelli's reminiscing helps Rosie and Bailey better understand their own feelings?
7. Rosie spent a whole year learning Braille in secret to surprise Bailey. Why do you think she wanted it to be a surprise? Why do you think Bailey became so upset? And why was he okay with teaching Janine?
8. Granny Torrelli tells Rosie and Bailey she cut Violetta's hair because she was jealous that Pardo paid so much attention to the new girl. Do you think Granny Torrelli would have felt good if the haircut had made Violetta look ugly? Why are Rosie and Bailey so shocked that Granny Torrelli behaved like a "monster girl" in her youth (p. 106)?
9. Rosie learns important lessons while preparing the soup and pasta with Granny; what does she learn from sharing those meals with the others?
10. Rosie feels very protective of her friendship with Bailey. Why do you think she suggests to Bailey that they invite all the neighbors to the pasta party even though she usually likes to keep him to herself?

