

2017

Review of *A Fine Dessert: Four Centuries, Four Families, One Delicious Treat* by Emily Jenkins

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A Fine Dessert

Jenkins, Emily

Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. 2015. \$17.99 hc. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books (Random House Children's Books [Random House LLC (Penguin Random House Company)]). 978-0-375-86832-0. Ages 4-8

There is nothing quite like yummy food to connect people from many walks of life across time. This book takes a historic look at the process of making a dessert called “blackberry fool.” In four different iterations of the same basic narrative, both the author and illustrator highlight the ordinary life social, technological, geographic, and to a small degree linguistic changes that occurred throughout time in the making of this simple dessert. All aspects of the book were well researched, and this story is both entertaining and educational in the content it presents, opening up opportunity for further conversation about the four different contexts. The illustrations are soft and detailed, drawing the reader into the history presented. This is a book (and recipe) that can be enjoyed by many ages and even generations.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Lauren Yost, Centennial Library Independent Study Student