

Tales of Old



Talk About It

Why do you think people still read fairy tales today?



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Vocabulary

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| sheepishly | phase |
| coincidences | mufflers |
| sumptuous | hobbled |
| sweeten | prospered |

Dictionary

An **idiom** is a phrase that has a meaning different from the meanings of the words that make it up.

sweeten the pot = make an offer more appealing

From Daughter to Daughter

by Ramón Pérez

It was a tradition. Every Delgado mother taught her daughter how to make “the famous Delgado empanadas.” Empanada is a Spanish word that means “pie” or “meat pie.” But the Delgados were not famous for meat pies. They were famous for their dessert empanadas.

Today Lucy Delgado would learn the recipe. She wanted to ask about her family’s past, but she was feeling shy. She looked **sheepishly** at her grandmother. “Abuelita, how did we become famous for our empanadas? How did you start a bakery?” she asked.

Abuelita said, “I was making empanadas the way my mother did and the way her mother did. Then I started trying new things. I put rice pudding or chocolate inside an empanada. Some of my friends thought they tasted so good that they asked me to make the sweet pies for them. I wanted to start my own business but I did not have the money.”

“So how did you get the money?” Lucy asked.

“By a series of strange **coincidences**. A businessman at a friend’s party tasted my empanadas. He thought the **sumptuous** pies were wonderful. My friend had a space for rent so the businessman offered to help me start my bakery. To **sweeten** the pot, he said that he would give me a year’s contract to supply his company’s cafeteria with empanadas.”



“Abuelita had the money and the space, but we still had **phase** three of our problems to face,” Lucy’s mom said.

“There was so little heat in the space we rented that our fingers were too numb to work,” laughed Abuelita. “Sometimes it was so cold in the building that we had to wear gloves on our hands and **mufflers** around our necks while we made the dough!”

“I worked so hard some days that I **hobbled** home at night because my legs were so tired,” Abuelita continued. “But soon the business **prospered**. We were making enough money to hire workers. And that’s how the bakery still runs today.”

Lucy smiled at Abuelita with pride. After hearing that story, the empanadas seemed to taste sweeter than before.

Reread for Comprehension



Summarize

Problem and Solution

A Problem and Solution Chart can help you summarize the events of a story. Identify a story’s problem and solution to help you capture its most important details in your summary.

Use a Problem and Solution Chart to help you identify the important parts of the story as you reread “From Daughter to Daughter.”

