

Julia Child

An Extraordinary Life in Words and Pictures

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English Language Arts Teaching Guide

The materials in this guide are aligned to Common Core State Standards, Grade 4

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Chapters 1 - 4

1. In *Julia Child: An Extraordinary Life in Words and Pictures*, the preface details an important meal in Julia's life, "that lunch changed everything." (12) Write about an important meal in your own life. What food was served? Who was there? Why was the meal so significant? Be sure to use lots of sensory details. (CCSS W4.3)
2. As a young child, Julia is portrayed as an active girl and a risk-taker. Do her parents approve of this, or disapprove? Examine the text in Chapter 1 for evidence to support your conclusion. (CCSS RI.4.1)
3. Julia encounters a lot of obstacles in her life as a teen and young adult, from feeling like an outcast to losing her mother. How does she deal with challenges? What helps her? (CCSS RI.4.1)
4. In Chapter 4, Julia shows her risk-taking mindset when she heads to India, becoming very excited about meeting people with "academic minds" who like discussing big ideas. Write about a time that you have taken a risk and become a better person because of it. (CCSS W.4.2)
5. Compare and contrast the map in Chapter 4 with a current-day map of the same region. Discuss the differences that you find. How has traveling changed since Julia first traveled this region? (CCSS RI.4.7)
6. In chapter 4, Julia arrives in India, taking in all the sounds, sounds, and smells of her new environment with a newcomer's appreciation. Write about a time that you traveled somewhere new. Use sensory detail to convey the excitement of being in a new place. (CCSS W.4.2, 4.2D)

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Chapters 5 - 7

1. In chapter 5, Julia is shown to be cool-headed during a perilous air journey. How does she cope? Discuss what do you do to cope with stress when you are flustered or scared. (CCSS RL.4.1)
2. Julia keeps trying different recipes in her efforts to become a better cook, and she doesn't give up despite some cooking disasters. She displays grit in her determination to get better at something. Write about a time you have displayed grit, when you continued trying hard despite some setbacks or failures. (CCSS W.4.2)
3. Julia says in Chapter 5 "Good cooks make mistakes too—they just know how to fix them." What does this say about Julia's outlook on life? (CCSS RI.4.1)
4. Although she is thrilled to be in Paris, Julia encounters a challenge: her inability to communicate. She has trouble learning the language. Write about a time you had difficulty communicating with someone. Detail your attempts to communicate, what happened, and how you felt as you tried to overcome this barrier. Use concrete details and quotations. (CCSS W.4.2, 4.2B)
5. In cooking school, Julia asked a lot of questions. How does this demonstrate her risk-taking characteristic? (CCSS RL.4.1)
6. Research the steps of the Scientific Method. How does Julia use this method in her process of developing and writing recipes in Chapter 7? (CCSS RI.4.3, 4.7)

Chapters 8 - 10

1. In Chapter 8, Julia is faced with another challenge. She has to move away from Paris when she doesn't want to. Write about a time when you had to make a unwanted move or change. How did you overcome your reluctance? What happened? (CCSS W.4.2)
2. Julia worked on her cookbook for seven years, only to have it rejected by the publisher Houghton Mifflin. Write about a time that you did not achieve a goal you were working towards. What happened and how did you respond? Use concrete details and quotations. (CCSS W.4.2, 4.2B)
3. Julia's publishing contract did not come easily. What was the sequence of events that happened before the publisher at Knopf decided to publish the book? (CCSS RI.4.3, 4.5)
4. Chapter 10 provides some context for the time period in which *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* was published. Do some additional research about the year 1961, the year Julia's book came out. What were some of the conditions that might have prevented or contributed to the book's success? (CCSS RI.4.3, 4.7)

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Chapters 11 - 14

1. One of the television producers at WGBH said of Julia's first appearance "Who is this madwoman cooking an omelette on a book- review program?" Why do you think he had this reaction? (CCSS RI.4.1)
2. When Julia first watches herself cooking on television in Chapter 12, she is critical of herself while others react positively. Write about a time you had a similar experiences, when others saw you differently than you saw yourself. (CCSS W.4.2)
3. Julia once said that "People who love to eat are always the best people." Write an essay agreeing or disagreeing with this statement. (CCSS W.4.1)
4. Julia remained unaffected by her fame, even serving goldfish crackers to her dinner guests. What are the snacks you would serve to someone in your home to make them feel welcome and comfortable? How can food change the mood or feeling at a gathering? (CCSS RI.4.1)
5. Julia Child had a number of positive attributes that made her who she was, including grit, optimism, and resilience. Write an opinion piece about how those attributes contributed to her success. (CCSS W.4.1, 4.1A, 4.1B, 4.1C, 4.1D)