

Different ways you could use the story at home or in crèche/pre-school.



Option 1

(for an individual child or couple of children with parent/guardian at home).

Read through the complete story with the children. Suggest that you could pretend to be the Queen and they could be Annalise, the cook and that you play together imagining how you, as the Queen, insist on only eating the same foods every-day, refusing everything offered if it's not on her set menu. The children will probably enjoy hearing the adult turning their nose up at everything and refusing to try anything new. This may present the child with a role-reversal to what might happen in real life and they often enjoy being the person playing the more adult, grown-up role. Eventually as Queen you might start being a little bit adventurous and might taste something new but don't forget though that the Queen sticks to her regular cup of tea which can play a central role in the role play.



Option 2

(for a larger group of children in a crèche/pre-school).

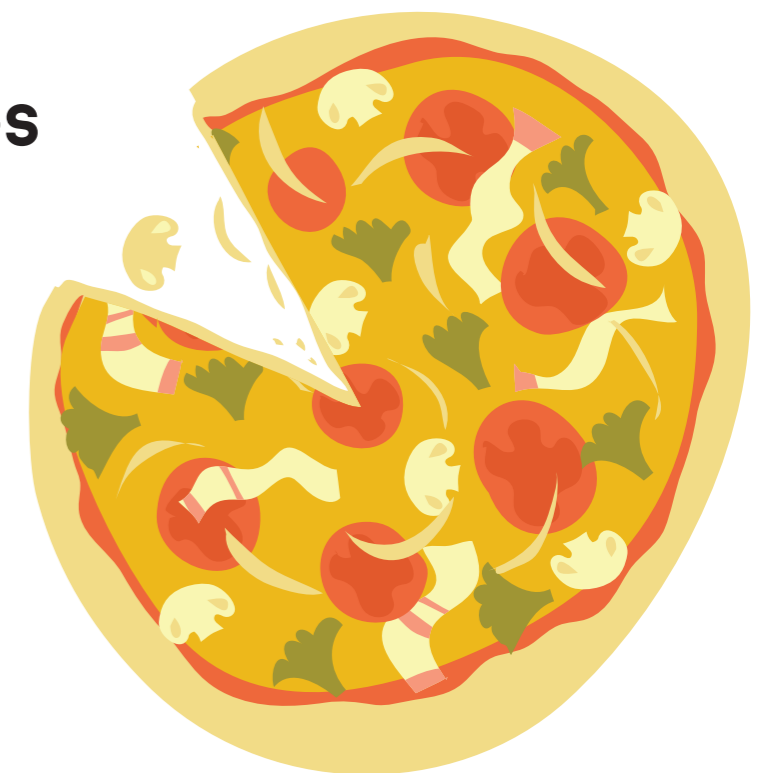
Read the first part of the story, stopping before the Queen goes to the Italian restaurant. Suggest to the children that they all become cooks in the kitchen, busy cooking away. Tell the children that you are going to become the Queen and that they can ask you questions and that you will answer in role as the Queen, giving the responses you think she would give at the start of the story. The children in role as the cooks may have advice and suggestions to give the Queen.

The next day read the second half of the story and in the follow up pretend play session suggest the children become the cooks again and that you will become the Queen and they can ask the Queen questions once more, only this time you will respond as the Queen would at the end of the story.



The Queen who'd never tried pizza

Written by
Joanna Parkes





he Queen loved her food but the food she loved was always the same: every day of every month, every month of every year, she had the same thing. Porridge with a swirl of honey in the morning, mashed potatoes, sausages and baked beans for lunch (sometimes she had peas) and boiled egg with white toast for tea. She had the same thing every day of the week, even at the weekends, although she did have strawberry jelly and vanilla ice-cream on Saturday and Sunday lunch times.

She also ate an apple every day, plus a pear on Tuesday and a banana on Thursday. She drank a glass of water with every meal, and had 3 cups of tea with a splash of milk every day with 2 plain biscuits. Same food every day, even on her Birthday (although on her Birthday she would have a chocolate biscuit with her tea!), and even on Christmas Day (although on Christmas Day she would have roast potatoes rather than mashed!).

When people came to visit her from other countries they would bring delicious fruits such as pineapple and mango and watermelon and she would say “Oh how kind but I think I’ll stick to my apple.” When people asked her why she always ate the same food she said “Well, I know what I like and I like what I know so why change?”

The cook in the Palace was called Annalise and she did as the Queen asked and would make her the same food every day, but she found cooking the same things every day for every meal so boring.

“Every day the same thing: porridge in the morning, sausages for lunch and toast for her tea,” Annalise sighed. “I like porridge myself but sometime you need to have a change”.

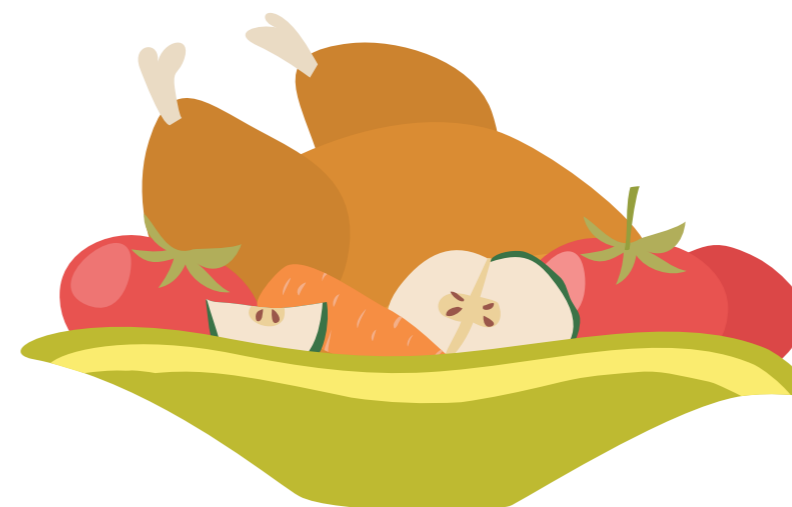
Sometimes at breakfast time she would add some raisins into the Queen’s porridge or sprinkle a tiny bit of cinnamon on top, or she would cook freshly baked brown soda bread or even fresh croissants – but the Queen wouldn’t budge.

At lunch Annalise occasionally tried to add some spices to the baked beans – once she even tried to give the Queen butter beans instead of baked beans but the Queen would have none of it.

“No, no, no” she said “I know what I like and I like what I know – so why change?”

Annalise the cook loved to travel and had collected recipes from all the different places she visited around the world. After she had made food for the Queen’s meal, she would cook something different for everyone else in the Palace and all the wonderful smells, tastes and flavours from all around the world would float around the Palace. Annalise would maybe cook lentil dal from India on Mondays and baba ghanoush from the Lebanon on Tuesdays, something different every day of the week.

People who worked in the Palace starting staying behind in the evenings in order to taste the cook’s wonderful food. The Queen’s official letter writer was from Russia so he showed Annalise how to cook Stroganoff and Goulash, and her main speech writer was from Kenya, so he taught Annalise how to make African doughnuts called Mandazi.



The Queen began to feel a bit lonely by herself in the dining room; she could smell different foods coming from the kitchen and hear everyone ‘oohing’ and ‘aaahing’, saying how delicious Annalise’s cooking was. She began to wonder about trying something new – but she didn’t know if she’d like it.

“No, no” she said to herself “I know what I like and I like what I know – so why change?”

One day when the Queen was in the Palace garden, she heard joyful voices coming over the wall and she sniffed something different in the air. She looked over and saw that a new restaurant had opened, an Italian restaurant selling homemade pizza and pasta.

“Hmm, I’ve never had pizza or pasta, maybe I should be brave and try something new”. She thought about it for several days and eventually decided to visit the Italian restaurant by herself and to – try something NEW. She wasn’t sure how to eat the pizza or the long pasta called spaghetti but she watched other people around her and copied what they did. It was strange at first, different to her usual food, but once she got used to the new tastes she found that she really liked pizza and went rushing back to the Palace, feeling very excited.

She went immediately to see Annalise and told her she would like to start trying some new foods. Annalise was delighted at this change but she didn’t want to rush things and put the Queen off, so she decided to introduce one new thing every day. But what a difference it made! After a month, the Queen was eating something different every day of the week and tasting foods from all around the world.

The Queen didn’t like absolutely everything she tried – she found she didn’t much like pickled beetroot – but she discovered that she did like most of the exciting new foods that she tried and, even if she didn’t like something, she could think to herself:

“At least I’m trying something new!”

She also decided to eat her evening meals with everyone else in the kitchen, rather than by herself in the dining room. Every day was now new and exciting and she greatly enjoyed hearing everyone’s tales and stories at the end of the day.

However, one thing didn’t change – the Queen still enjoyed having 3 cups of tea with a splash of milk every day with 2 plain biscuits. “Well...” she said “when it comes to my cup of tea and biscuits, I know what I like and I like what I know – so why change?!”

