

## Delicious Stories

**The door to the castle library creaked open and around it peeked a chef.** He was very short and wore a long, white apron that touched the ground. The apron had stains on it that looked like ink blotches. He also had on a puffy white chefs hat and big, long pointy black shoes. He said, "Come in. I've been waiting for you."

I was a bit nervous as the castle door shut behind me and I followed him to the castle library's kitchen. As we walked, I smelled something fantastic cooking but it wasn't the smell of something I wanted to eat. It was the smell of something I wanted to read - a new book!

He led me into the noisy kitchen and put an apron over me that already had stains that looked like words from newspaper headlines. I looked around and I was amazed at what I saw! There were letters of the alphabet, words and punctuation floating around the air! There were shiny pots and pans that let out purple and yellow puffs of smoke that turned into pens and pencils that fell neatly into empty coffee tins. There were loud and busy elves that were using rolling pins to roll out dough that became pages and book covers. They used the scraps to make bookmarks and library cards. There were baby flying dragons, princesses, witches, ogres, pirates and all the characters from my favourite stories, busy working on creating new stories for kids like me. Robert Munsch and the Paper Bag Princess were busy filling spice jars with new story ideas while Michael Martchenko painted pictures from paints stored in ketchup, mustard and relish bottles. There were canisters that were *labeled fiction, non-fiction, mystery, biography* and other kinds of story genres. There were shelves of recipe books with titles like *"Yummy Mysteries Under 30 Minutes "*, *"Delicious Non-Fiction Delights "* and *"Hot and Spicy Riddle and Joke Books "*. The kitchen was abuzz with imagination and the creation of new stories. Hot, finished books were then placed on cooling shelves ready for the librarian.

"This place is fantastic!" I said.

The Chef said, "I know. This is the kitchen where good stories get cooked up." He then invited me to a really special book reading feast in the castle library's dining room with all my favourite authors. I was served the "Chefs special" - a warm, fresh, new Judy

Moody book and I was seated at the table between Megan McDonald and Robert Munsch! I read and shared my own stories with everyone and was having a marvelous time when I looked at my watch and realized I had to get home for dinner. I thanked the Chef, authors, illustrators, and creatures and took off my apron and handed it to the Chef and made my way to the castle library door. As I left, the Chef said, "Come back anytime and bring some fresh, new story ideas" and handed me my very own library card. At home, dinner was great! We had roast chicken, corn on the cob and Caesar salad and for dessert, I read, *Judy Moody Predicts the Future*

