

The Ugly Dumpling

BY STEPHANIE CAMPISI * ILLUSTRATED BY SHAHAR KOBER

This charming and culturally diverse tale is a retelling of a classic fable about friendship, tolerance, and the beauty of being different. When an encouraging cockroach sees an ugly dumpling's inner beauty, the unlikely duo embarks on an eye-opening adventure, leading the ugly dumpling to discover its true identity. Thoughtfully crafted illustrations and meaningful text will teach readers the value of kindness and acceptance.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Stephanie Campisi is an Australian-born, Portland-based author and dumpling aficionado. She has combined her passion for food and love of wordplay into her debut picture book, *The Ugly Dumpling*.

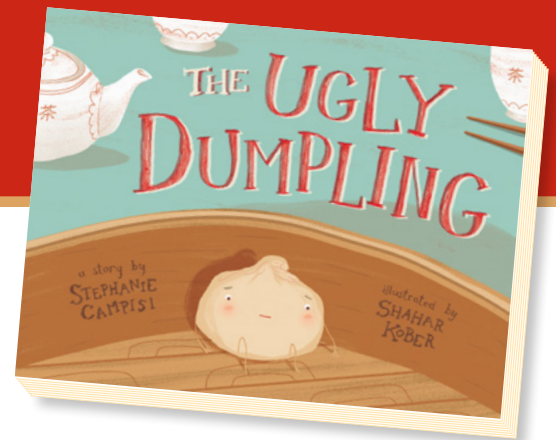
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Shahar Kober is an award-winning illustrator of over thirty children's books. His work has been published in the USA and around the world. Shahar lives in a small town in northern Israel with his wife, two boys, a dog, and a cat. He teaches illustration for animation in Israel.



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Read It!

ABOUT THE BOOK

The ugliest of all dumplings is down in the dumps. It is ignored by the other dumplings and uneaten by patrons in the dim sum restaurant where it lives. But when a cockroach sees the dumpling's inner beauty, this unlikely duo embarks on an eye-opening adventure, leading the ugly dumpling to discover its true identity and realize that being different is beautiful after all.



BEFORE YOU READ

▶ Preview the Words to Know:

Go through the words and their meanings with students. Tell students to pick one word. Ask: *What does this word make you think of?* Have students write sentences using their chosen words.

▶ Conduct a cockroach, dumpling, and steamed bun brainstorm session:

Ask students what they know about steamed buns and dumplings. See if they know what culture these dishes come from. Ask students what facts they know about cockroaches. Write answers on the board.

▶ Examine the book's cover:

Ask students: *What do you think this book will be about? What clues does the cover give you about the book's topic?*

WORDS TO KNOW

appalled (uh-PAWLD): struck with shock or disgust

category (KAT-uh-gor-ee): a group of people or things that are similar in some way

cockroach (KAHK-rohch): a common black or brown insect often found in homes and other buildings

dim sum (DIM suhm): a type of traditional Chinese food consisting of a variety of items that are served in small portions

dumpling (DUHMP-ling): a small piece of food that is wrapped in dough and cooked, common in Asian cooking

horrified (HOR-uh-fyed): struck with horror or fear

pleated (PLEET-uhd): having several parallel folds

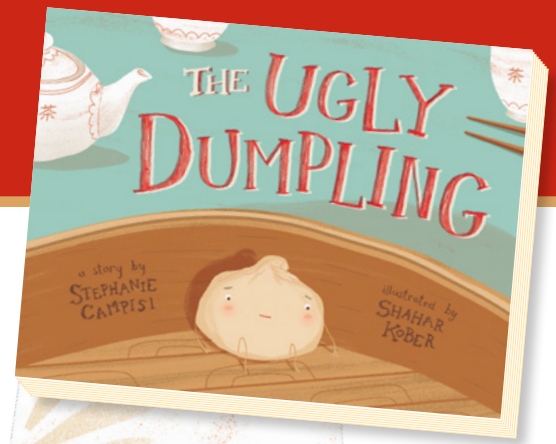
steamed bun (STEEMD buhn): a piece of dough, cooked using steam, that is filled with meat, vegetables, or other ingredients, common in Asian cooking

swelling (SWEL-ling): becoming larger than normal

wok (WAHK): a bowl-shaped pan that is used especially for cooking Chinese food

yeast (YEEST): a type of fungus that is used in baking to help make dough rise

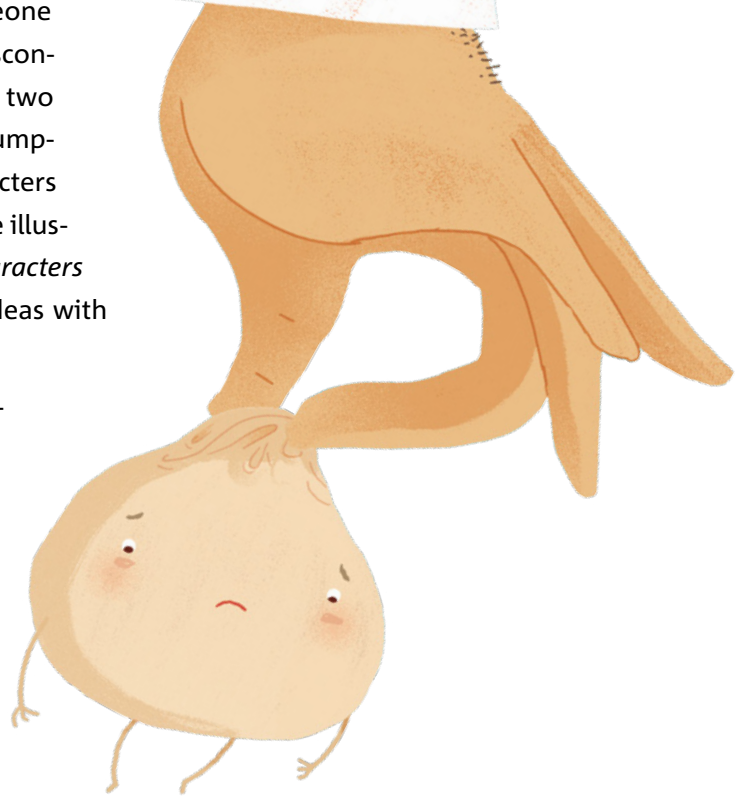
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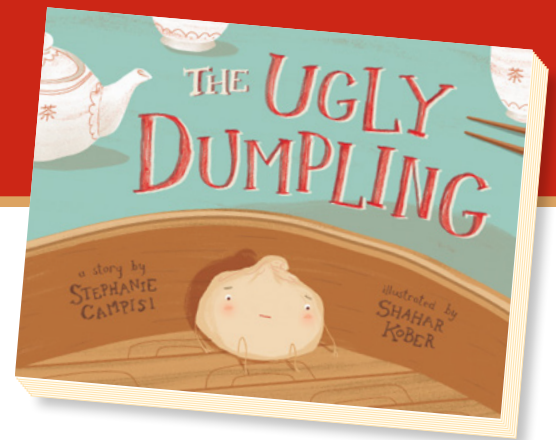
Know It!

DISCUSS THE BOOK

- › **Many Misconceptions:** Explain to students that a misconception is an idea someone has about something or someone that is not true. Many characters in this book have misconceptions about other characters. Ask students to find two misconceptions the characters have about the ugly dumpling. Then have them find two misconceptions the characters have about the cockroach. Remind students to look at the illustrations for clues! Then ask: *Why do you think the characters have these misconceptions?* Have students share their ideas with the class.
- › **Picture Perfect:** Have students choose their favorite illustration from *The Ugly Dumpling*. Ask them to study the illustration very closely. Ask: *What does the illustration tell you that the text does not?* Have students pick five details from the illustration that they think are important. Then discuss them as a class.
- › **What's the Moral?:** Explain to students that a moral is a lesson you can learn from a story. Ask students what they think the moral of *The Ugly Dumpling* is. Then have them find clues from the book to support their ideas.



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Know It!

WRITE ABOUT IT

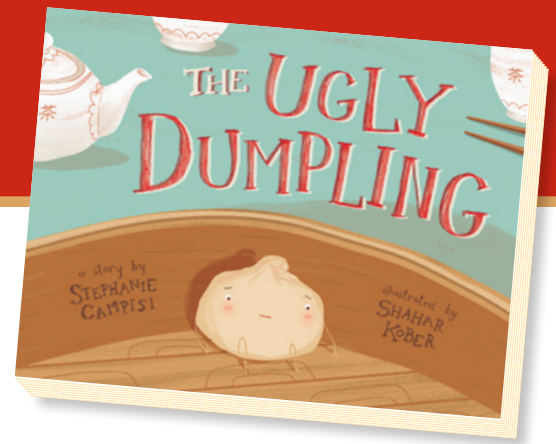
- › **Fitting In:** Early in the story, the ugly dumpling tries to change how it looks to fit in. Have students complete the Different Dumplings activity on page 11. Then ask students to write a paragraph explaining how the dumpling changes its appearance and why. Ask: *Have you ever tried to change how you looked to fit in?* Tell students to include their answer in their paragraph.
- › **Travel Writer:** The cockroach leads the ugly dumpling on an adventure around the world. Ask students to imagine they are travel writers, tagging along on the cockroach and dumpling's amazing adventure. Ask students to write an article describing their trip. Remind them to include the *who, what, when, where, why, and how*.
- › **What's Next?:** Ask students what happens after the ugly dumpling and the cockroach leave the dim sum restaurant? Have students complete the activity on page 7, by drawing the cover for a sequel to *The Ugly Dumpling*. Then ask them to write a short and exciting description of the sequel's story.
- › **New View:** Have students choose a character from the book that is not the ugly dumpling or cockroach. This could be a cook, a diner, or another dumpling. Tell students to give the character a name. Then, have them write a short story retelling of *The Ugly Dumpling* from this character's point of view. Ask: *How does the story change? How does it stay the same?*

MAP IT OUT

- › **Story Map:** Every story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Have students use the chart on page 8 to create a story map of *The Ugly Dumpling*. What happens at the beginning that leads to the main action of the story? How does the story end? What key events lead to this ending? Have students use details from the text and illustrations to describe these events.
- › **Around the World:** Dumplings are popular foods around the world. Research different kinds of dumplings as a class or in small groups. Then use the activity on page 9 to learn more about dumplings and where they come from.



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



Try It!

FUN ACTIVITIES

- › **World Taste Tour:** Ask students to form groups and research important foods in different cultures. Each group should set up a station where they can teach classmates about their foods using pictures, props, and more. Students will take turns touring the stations and learning about one another's foods.
- › **Create with Clay:** Have students create dumplings out of clay. Then have everyone decorate their dumplings however they want to. Decorate the classroom with these diverse dumplings to show the importance of celebrating differences!
- › **Dumpling, Dumpling, Steamed Bun:** Learn the Chinese words for *steamed bun* and *dumpling* as a class. Play a few rounds of duck, duck, goose using these words instead! When the tagger chases the steamed bun around the room, both students must give each other compliments before the next turn.

CONNECT

- › **Watch a movie that features a fictional character who has trouble fitting in, such as *Zootopia*:** Lead a discussion comparing the character in the film to the characters in *The Ugly Dumpling*. Ask: *How is the character in the film similar to the ugly dumpling? How is the character different?*
- › **Research cockroaches as a class to learn more about them:** Discuss how many people dislike cockroaches. Ask students why they think people may be afraid of cockroaches. Then discuss the important role cockroaches play in different ecosystems.



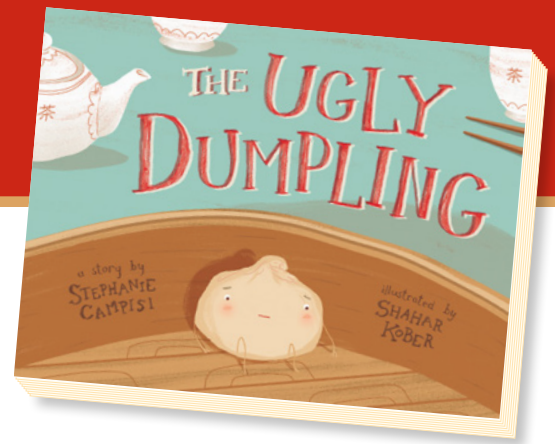
EXPLORE MORE

Visit the following websites to learn more about cockroaches and Chinese culture:

- › **Animal Diversity Web, Blattaria**
<http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Blattaria/>
Read about blattaria, commonly called cockroaches. Learn about these insects' physical features, habitat, behavior, and more.
- › **Have You Ever Tried Dim Sum?**
<http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/have-you-ever-tried-dim-sum>
Learn all about dim sum, a type of Chinese cuisine. Discover dim sum history and learn about dim sum dishes, including dumplings.
- › **China**
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/china/>
Explore the links on this site to learn facts about China's history, languages, landmarks, and more. Read about a day in the life of a Chinese kid too!



EDUCATOR'S ACTIVITY GUIDE



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

The activities and discussion questions in this guide support the following Common Core State Standards.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2	Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3	Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7	Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9	Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1.	Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> , and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7.	Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1	Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., <i>because</i> , <i>and</i> , <i>also</i>) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3.	Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8	Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.



THE UGLY DUMPLING

Super Sequel

Think of an idea for a sequel to *The Ugly Dumpling*. Bring your idea to life on the book cover below. Draw the sequel's title on the front cover, as well as an illustration. Use your imagination!



THE UGLY DUMPLING

Book Map

Map out key details and events of *The Ugly Dumpling* by filling out the chart below.

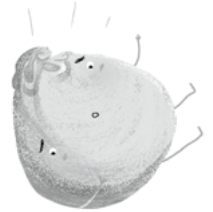


CHARACTERS

SETTING

BEGINNING, MIDDLE, END

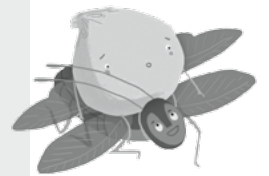
AT THE BEGINNING: _____



THEN: _____



FINALLY: _____



THE UGLY DUMPLING

Dumplings Around the World

Dumplings are called many different names around the world. They may have different ingredients. But all dumplings are small pieces of cooked dough. Some dumplings may be eaten in more than one country. You may have eaten some! Read the sentences one through five to learn about dumplings. Then unscramble the letters to spell a country from the list below where each dumpling is eaten.

Ghana

India

Japan

Poland

Spain

1. An empanada (em-puh-NAH-duh) is a pastry. It can be stuffed with cheese, meat, seafood, fruit, or vegetables.

Empanadas are eaten in **PNIAS**.

___ _ _ _ _

2. A kenkey (KEN-kee) is made of corn and cassava dough. It may be wrapped in banana leaves. It is boiled in hot water and often served with soup, meat, or fish.

Kenkeys are eaten in **NAHAG**.

___ _ _ _ _

3. A pierogi (puh-RO-gee) is a pocket of dough. It can be stuffed with potatoes, cheese, meat, or spices.

Pierogies are eaten in **NPODAL**.

___ _ _ _ _

4. A samosa (suh-MO-suh) is a fried triangle-shaped pastry. It is usually filled with vegetables.

Samosas are eaten in **AIDIN**.

___ _ _ _ _

5. A gyoza (GYOH-zah) is dumpling made of thin dough and filled with pork and cabbage.

Gyozas are eaten in **AJNAP**.

___ _ _ _ _

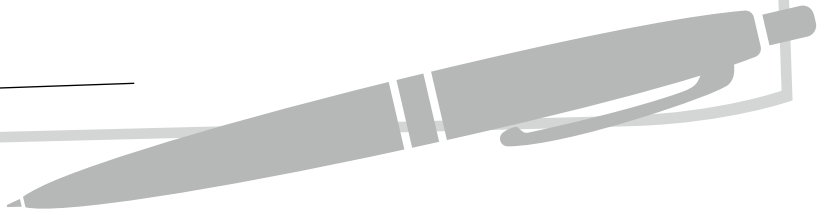
THE UGLY DUMPLING

Dear Dumpling...

Have you ever been bullied or picked on by someone? How did that make you feel? In *The Ugly Dumpling*, both the cockroach and the ugly dumpling are bullied. Use the blanks below to write a letter from either the cockroach or the ugly dumpling to one of its bullies, explaining how the bullying made it feel. Then, write a letter from one of the bullies back to the character you chose.

Dear _____,

Sincerely,



Dear _____,

Sincerely,

THE UGLY DUMPLING

Different Dumplings

The ugly dumpling does lots of things to try to fit in, sometimes even changing its appearance. Decorate the dumplings below in different outfits. Be creative to make your dumplings as diverse as possible!



THE UGLY DUMPLING

Make Your Own Dumplings!

Serves: 4–6

Time: 1 hour

INGREDIENTS

3 cups spinach
8 ounces white mushrooms
4–6 green onions
2 carrots
3 tablespoons freshly grated ginger
3 tablespoons sesame oil
2 cloves minced garlic
¼ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons soy sauce
24–36 dumpling wrappers
¼ cup soy sauce or chili sauce for serving

TOOLS

measuring cups
measuring spoons
knife
cutting board
grater
frying pan
large bowl
mixing spoon
small bowl
stockpot
slotted spoon



DIRECTIONS

1. With an adult's help, chop the spinach, mushrooms, and green onions into ¼ to ½-inch pieces. Grate the carrots and the ginger.
2. Heat the sesame oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the mushrooms, onions, garlic, carrots, ginger, and salt. Cook for 5 minutes. Then add the spinach, and cook another 3 minutes. This makes the filling!
3. Pour the filling into a large bowl, and stir in the soy sauce. Refrigerate for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the mixture is cool.
4. Fill a small bowl with water. Lay a dumpling wrapper on a clean surface. Put one tablespoon of filling in the center of the wrapper. Dip your (clean!) finger in the water, and use it to brush the water around the edges of the wrapper. Fold the wrapper in half like a taco, and pinch the edges to seal. Repeat to make the remaining dumplings.
5. With an adult's help, fill a stockpot with water and bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Add 6 to 8 dumplings to the pot. Boil the dumplings for 5 to 7 minutes, then remove using a slotted spoon. Repeat until all the dumplings are cooked. Enjoy your dumplings with soy sauce or chili sauce!