***Lights, Camera, Cook!***

by Charise Mericle Harper

**Annotation**

It's “lights, camera, cook!” for four young competitors. Lively ball of energy Tate, sweet seemingly timid Rae, confident Caroline, and calm and competitve Oliver. All are about to enter a televised cooking competition for the Next Best Junior Chef title. How will they all get along both on and off camera? Which junior chef will leave and which of them will stay?

**Book Talk**

Have you ever dreamed of being on television competing in order to be considered the best at something? Imagine if you will, entering a televised contest in which you compete against three other children your age to see who will be the next junior chef. You have the skills and the knowledge to compete, but so do the others you will compete against. If you enjoy food, cooking and competition this is the book for you!

**Book Trailers**

<https://vimeo.com/225450972>

**Author on the Internet**

* Website: www.chariseharper.com
* Twitter: https://twitter.com/ChariseHarper
* Facebook: /chariseharperbooks
* Instagram: http://instagram.com/chariseharper/

**Items to use in a library display**

* Kitchen gadgets
* Aprons
* Kid cookbooks
* Old video camera
* Clap Board

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

* What kind of recipes would you like to make?
* What are your favorite things to cook?
* Would you like to be on The Next Best Junior Chef Show?
* Do you enjoy competition?

**First Line of the Book:**

“The filming studio was a hive of activity. And then…”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

* Kid Chef : The Foodie Kids Cookbook by Sonoma Press
* Cooking Class by Deanna Cook
* New Junior Cookbook by Better Homes and Gardens

**What to Read Next**

* The Heat is On (Next Best Junior Chef) by Charise Mericle Harper
* The Icing on the Cake by Deborah Levine
* Jess’s Story by Christine Hepperman

**Other Books by this Author**

* The Good For Nothing Button
* Superlove
* The Just Grace Series
* Sasquatch and the Aliens
* Go! Go! Go! Stop!
* Princess Patty Meets Her Match
* Mae and June and the Wonder Wheel
* Wedgieman and the Big Bunny Trouble

**Additional Resources**

* Poetry:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNIkZKsgGwM>
* Carrots to Cupcakes : Poems about Food by Susan Freese
* Art/craft activity: Cooking with kids; simple recipes to show measuring, stirring, etc.
* Reader’s Theater script:
  + <http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/reading/ReadersTheater/ReadersTheater018.shtml>
  + <https://vimeo.com/23646720>

**Name that Book**

“There were ten items on the list; and two had pictures. That was helpful because she had no idea what a fiddlehead or a sunchoke even was.” p 33

“My dad’s in the army, so he knows all about working out. We used to do a routine together every morning. I’m still practicing for when he gets back.Tomorrow I’ll add some extra push-ups” p. 37

“I don’t want to give it away, but it has something to do with this charm on my necklace. I make charms all the time. This one’s for my grandma. I made a clay teacup because we have tea together every day at four o’clock.” p 40

“People will come back because they will want to try new things. And if someone asks where they’re going for lunch, they can say, “I’m going to Stuff My Face.” p 42

“Some people have the desire to practice and some people just have talent. I’m lucky. I have both.” p 56

“Of course I care about people. I saved her, didn’t I? Some people just don’t know how to say thank you.” p 67

“It’s food on a stick! And just one of the many different foods on a stick you can find here at the fair.” p 105

“This is Nancy. She’s two years old and a special breed of chicken called a Belgian bearded d’Uccle bantam.” That was a long name. p 134

“I’ve learned to listen to myself, and be confident in my decisions. I have hidden skills that I’m just discovering.” p 173