

Swedish Meatball Potstickers with Mustard Dipping Sauce

by Margaret Maugenest



Ava's class was having a food fair. Ava was on the planning team. She came home after the meeting. She threw her bag down. She slumped in a chair. She looked glum.

READ & RESPOND

Point of View

Look at the pronouns on this page. What do they tell you about the narrator's point of view?

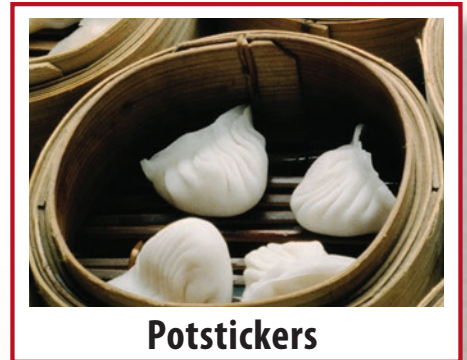


“What’s the matter?”
her mom asked.

“I have to bring food for
the fair,” said Ava. “The food
must tell about my family.
I can only bring one dish.”

“Make your Chinese potstickers.
They’re yummy!” Mom remarked.

“I don’t want to. I make
them all the time,” said Ava.



Potstickers

READ & RESPOND

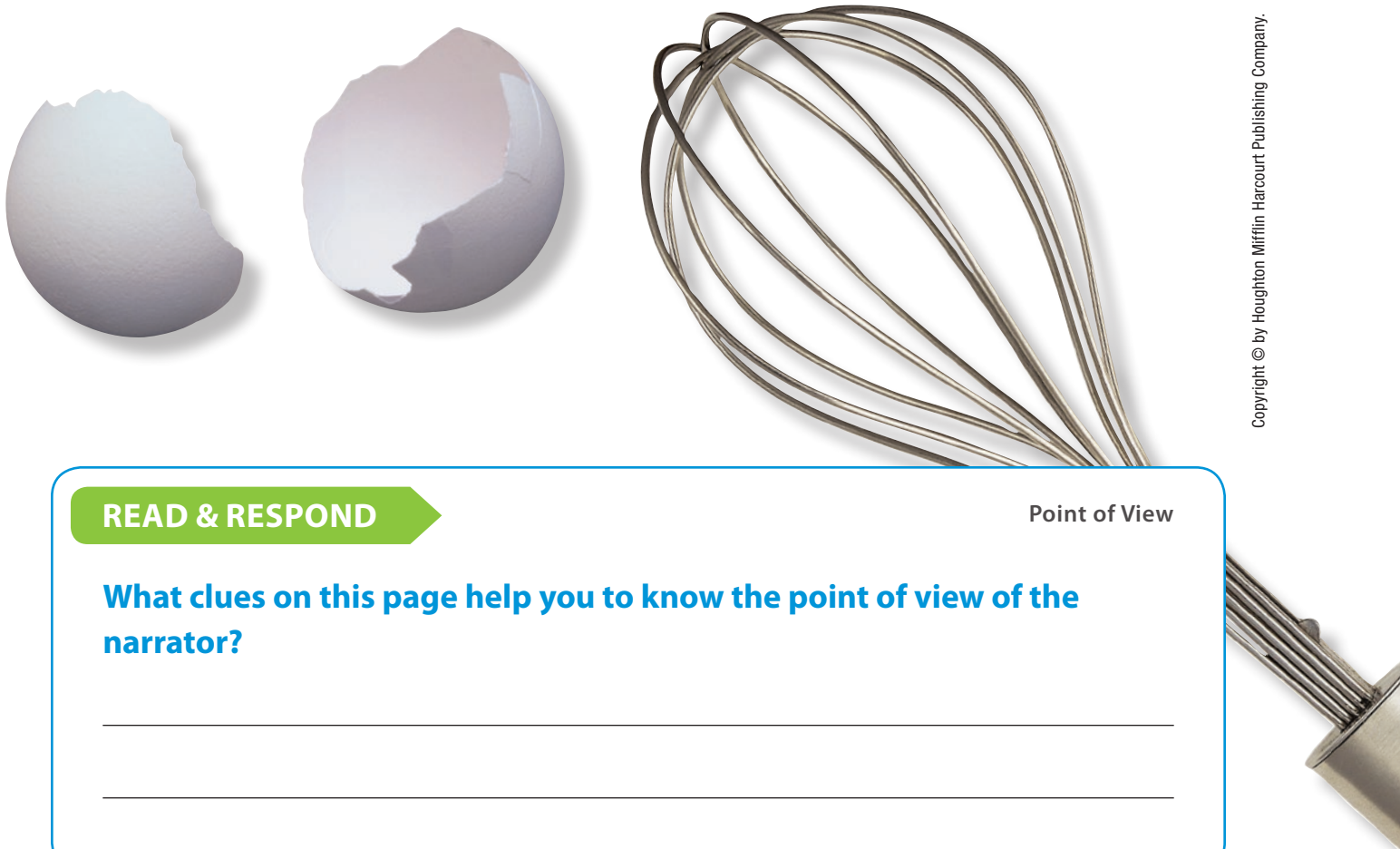
Make Inferences

How does Ava feel? How do you know?

“What about Grandma Ida’s Swedish meatballs? She made them in Sweden,” said Mom. “She still makes them.”

Ava shook her head. “I like the meatballs,” she said. “I just don’t want to make them for the food fair.”

No dish sounded right. Ava looked at her mom anxiously. What could Ava bring?



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READ & RESPOND

Point of View

What clues on this page help you to know the point of view of the narrator?



“What about Dad’s side of the family?” Mom said.

“They came from Poland. You can make Polish food.

Dad’s mom was a great cook. I have her recipes.”

Ava’s mom got a folder. “Let’s see. There is Polish stuffed cabbage. There is fish spread. There is mustard dipping sauce, too. These foods are easy to make. They are also very tasty!”



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READ & RESPOND

Make Inferences

How can you tell that Ava’s mom wants to be helpful?



Ava was not listening. She stared at the floor. Her face had a big frown. She was tense and worried.

“What’s the matter?” Mom asked.

“I can only bring one dish. I don’t have a one-dish story! There is more than one part of me. There’s the part that was born in China. Then there’s the Swedish part, from you. There’s also the Polish part from Dad!”



READ & RESPOND

Make Inferences

What does Ava mean when she says she doesn’t have a one-dish story?



Mom gave Ava a big hug. “Don’t worry. We will find the perfect dish to tell your story,” she said.

“A combo dish?” asked Ava.

“Yes. Let’s think of something new,” said Mom.

Ava’s eyes lit up. There was a big smile on her face.



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READ & RESPOND

Make Inferences

How does Ava feel now? How do you know?

“How about Polish stuffed cabbage?
I can make it with Chinese soy sauce and
Swedish jam,” Ava said.

“I’m not sure about the jam,” said Mom.
“Could we do potstickers with fish spread?”

“Yech!” said Ava. Then she smiled.
“I know! I’ll make Swedish meatball
potstickers with mustard dipping sauce.”

“That sounds great!” said Mom. “Let’s get
the ingredients and start!”



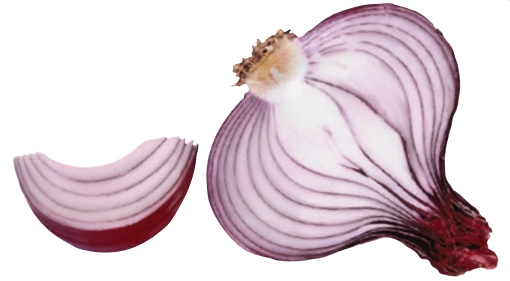
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READ & RESPOND

Point of View

**Is this story told in first-person or third-person point of view?
How do you know?**

Reread and Respond



1 Write two words that tell about Ava's mom.

Hint

Clues you can use are on almost every page!

2 What are the different parts of Ava's family background?

Hint

For a clue, see page 22.

3 Why is Ava happy to make a combo dish?

Hint

For a clue, see page 23.