

The Fabulous Cakes of Zinnia Jakes

Synopsis

When Zinnia Jakes gets a new pastry order for a special medieval crumbling cake, she has no idea where to start! It needs to be ready in less than a day for the school fair and the clock is ticking. Will she deliver it on time and remain the undercover secret pastry chef everyone talks about?

About the *Zinnia Jakes* Series

Zoe Jones is Zinnia Jakes, a nine-year-old secret pastry chef! She makes the tastiest and most wonderful cakes. Together with her magical cat, Coco, her best friend Addie and her aunty Jam, they get into incredible adventures.

About the Author

Brenda Gurr adores anything to do with spies, adventure and mysteries, so writing a book about someone with a secret identity is something she has always longed to do. Add to that her love of cats (she owns two magical Burmese cats) and her habit of baking far too many sweet treats, and you have all the ingredients for the world of Zinnia Jakes! A former storytelling fairy, drama teacher and school worksheet writer, Brenda is the author of numerous books for children. This is her first chapter book series.

About the Illustrator

Nancy Leschnikoff is a children's books illustrator. She also works on lettering projects and illustrated designs for book covers. Her hand-drawn style and creative approach have led to a variety of work in publishing and other design genres such as advertising, branding and web design. With a First Class BA (Hons) in Graphic Design, she worked immediately in the design studio field followed by fifteen years as a children's book designer before becoming a full-time illustrator.

Discussion Topics

Baking

It's obvious that Zoe gets her love of baking from her parents. Do you ever cook or bake at home with your family? What kinds of food do you prepare? What is your favourite thing to make?

Secret Identities

It is vital that no one finds out that the marvellous mystery baker Zinnia Jakes is actually a nine-year-old girl called Zoe Jones. If you had the chance to create a secret identity, what would it be? What name would you choose? What would your job be and why? How would you keep it a secret?

Entrepreneurship

Discuss the idea of entrepreneurship with the children. An entrepreneur is someone who sets up a business and takes on risk in the hope of profit. Do you think that Zinnia Jakes is an entrepreneur? Give reasons for your answers. You can make a list of the risks she takes versus her profits. Do you think the profit is solely monetary when it comes to Zinnia and her baking business?

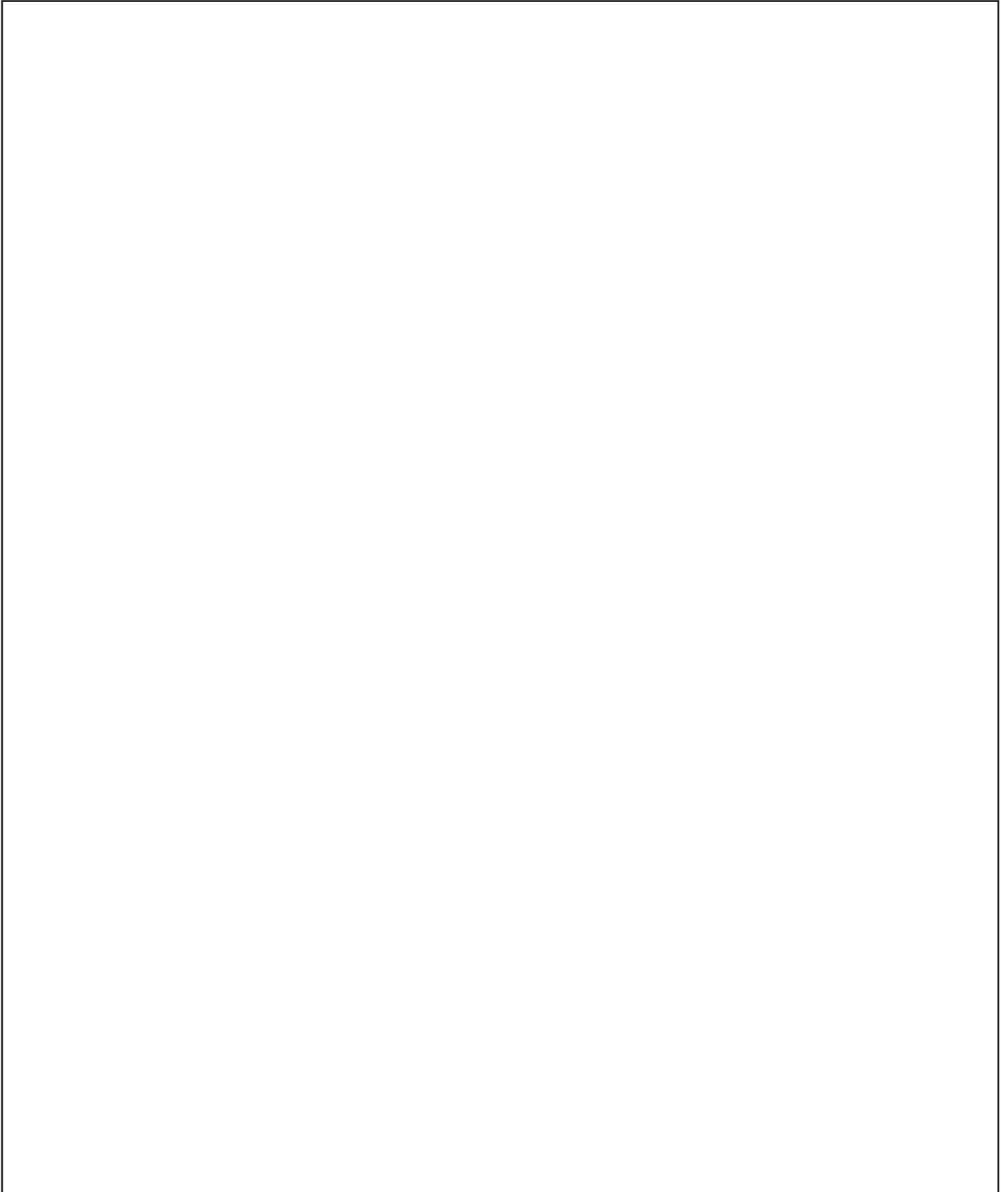
Friendship

Addie lets Zinnia have the dragon she made for her catapult, even though it cost her points in the competition. Why do you think Addie did this? Would you do something similar for a friend? Has someone else done something like this for you?



Drawing Creative Cakes

As you can see, Zinnia Jakes gets very creative with her baking! In her next book, Zinnia has an idea for some cute tortoise cupcakes. Can you think of a creative cake idea like Zinnia? Design your cake in the space below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a creative cake idea.

Fill In The Blanks

Below are 10 delicious desserts, but they are missing letters. Can you figure out which letters go in the blank spaces?

L _ mo _ Me _ ing _ e Pi _

E _ la _ rs

Ba _ _ d Alas _ a

M _ ca _ o _ s

Ti _ a _ isu

_ ea _ h M _ l _ a

Pa _ l _ va

_ he _ seca _ e

Choc _ la _ e Mou _ _ e

C _ pc _ k _ s

Lemon Meringue Pie

Eclairs

Baked Alaska

Macarons

Tiramisu

Peach Melba

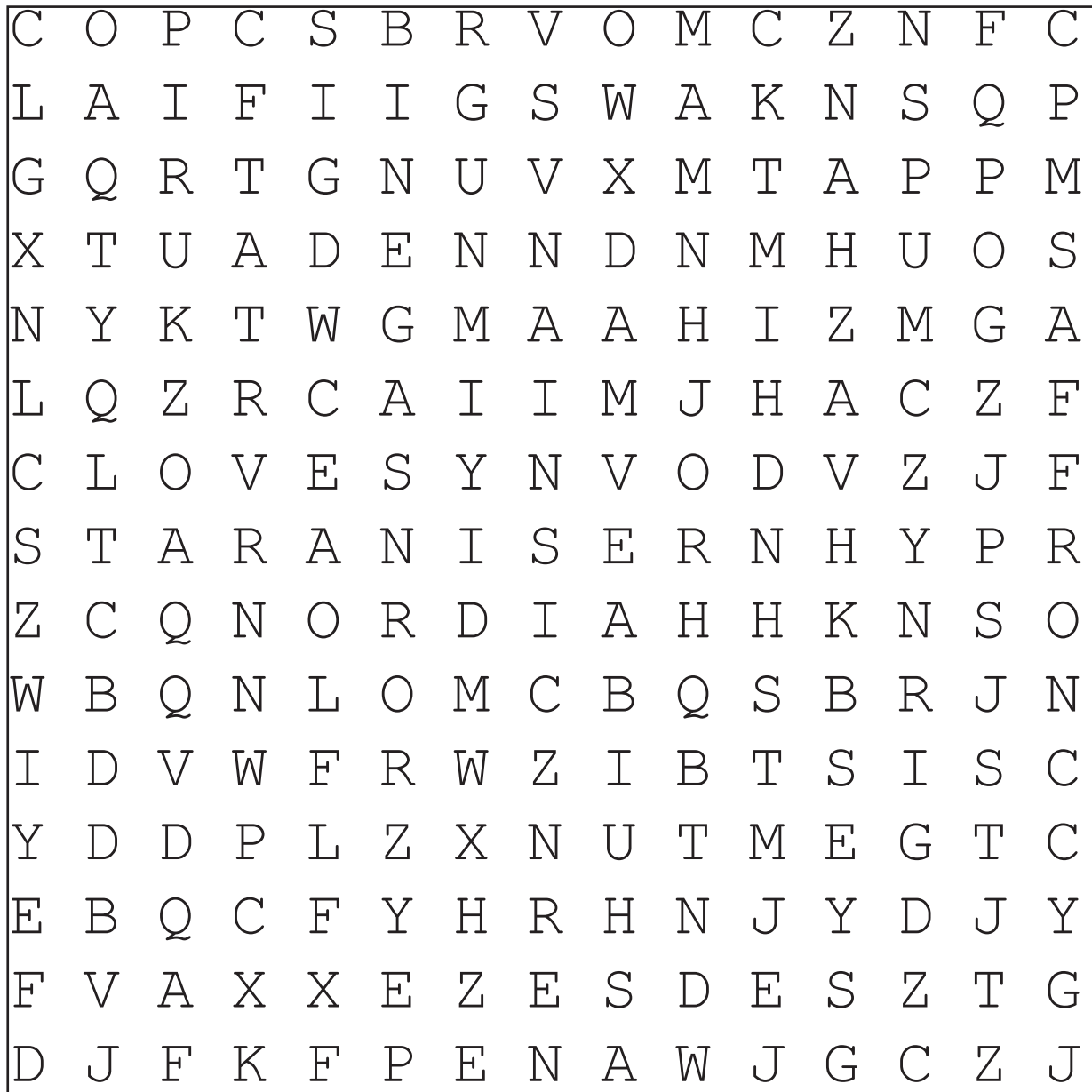
Pavlova

Cheesecake

Chocolate Mousse

Cupcakes

Word Search



Zinnia Jakes makes an amazing crumbling castle from medieval gingerbread. Can you find these seven other spices often used in baking in the word search?

Cinnamon
Caraway
Nutmeg
Star Anise
Cloves
Saffron
Cardamom

Word Search Answers

C	O	P	C	S	B	R	V	O	M	C	Z	N	F	C
L	A	I	F	I	I	G	S	W	A	K	N	S	Q	P
G	Q	R	T	G	N	U	V	X	M	T	A	P	P	M
X	T	U	A	D	E	N	N	D	N	M	H	U	O	S
N	Y	K	T	W	G	M	A	A	H	I	Z	M	G	A
L	Q	Z	R	C	A	I	I	M	J	H	A	C	Z	F
C	L	O	V	E	S	Y	N	V	O	D	V	Z	J	F
S	T	A	R	A	N	I	S	E	R	N	H	Y	P	R
Z	C	Q	N	O	R	D	I	A	H	H	K	N	S	O
W	B	Q	N	L	O	M	C	B	Q	S	B	R	J	N
I	D	V	W	F	R	W	Z	I	B	T	S	I	S	C
Y	D	D	P	L	Z	X	N	U	T	M	E	G	T	C
E	B	Q	C	F	Y	H	R	H	N	J	Y	D	J	Y
F	V	A	X	X	E	Z	E	S	D	E	S	Z	T	G
D	J	F	K	F	P	E	N	A	W	J	G	C	Z	J