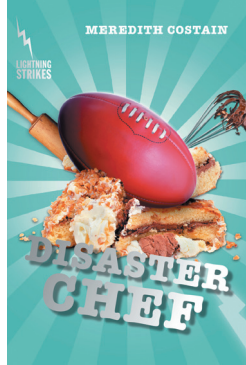


# LIGHTNING STRIKES

## CLASSROOM IDEAS



### Lightning Strikes: Disaster Chef Meredith Costain

ISBN: 9781921977794  
ARRP: \$12.95/NZRRP: \$15.99  
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#### Themes:

- Resourcefulness
- Honesty
- Competitions
- Family
- Informal text types

### SYNOPSIS

Ollie's a footy champ, not a chef. When his brother Julian is on a kids cooking show, Ollie's world turns into a recipe for disaster. Will Ollie be able to survive the sidelines?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Meredith Costain** grew up on a dairy farm on the Koo Wee Rup swamp in West Gippsland, Victoria. After finishing school and university she taught English for a while in the country then travelled around the world to places like Siberia, Morocco and northern Sumatra. She started teaching again in Melbourne, played in a few rock and blues bands, before becoming a full-time writer. She lives with her partner, children's author Paul Collins, with their numerous pets.

For more information about the author, please visit her website <http://www.meredithcostain.com/>.



### ACTIVITY IDEAS

- Before reading the book, look at the chapter titles and try to predict what the story might be about. Share your predictions with a classmate.
- Who are the main characters? Who are the secondary characters? Scan the text and try to find as much information as possible about each character. Create character profiles for Ollie, Julian, Carly, their dad and Serena. Which character do you like the best? Why?
- Identify the orientation, complication and resolution of *Disaster Chef*.
- What is the significance of the title *Disaster Chef*? Why has this been chosen for the title?
- In the *Maestro Chef* finale, Serena is caught cheating. Do you think Ollie pretending to be Julian is also cheating? Why or why not? Is it ever okay to cheat in a game? What would you have done in the same situation?
- Imagine you are a newsreader on television. Write and present a news report about the finale of *Maestro Chef* where it is revealed that Serena is cheating and Ollie is impersonating his brother. Include some interviews with contestants or audience members.
- "...Fancy Shirt holds up his arm like a stop signal." (p 31) This is a simile. What other similes can you think of?
- Write a book review of *Disaster Chef*. Include information about the storyline, what you liked and the major themes/issues in the book.
- The title of this book is a play on words. What is a play on words?
- **Class activity: Random Recipe**  
Have each student write five food items down on small pieces of paper, mix them all up in a bucket, then take turns drawing out five pieces. Use these as ingredients to write a recipe! Be sure to follow the proper format for a recipe.
- Ollie has a natural talent for football and Julian has a natural talent for cooking. What activity do you have a natural talent for? What do you like about that activity? What other activity would you like to be good at?
- In class conduct a survey on favourite meals. Graph your results.

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