

Ellie the Eggspert

By Danielle Sharkan | Illustrated by Alexandra Colombo

READING GUIDE

About the Book

When young Ellie is assigned a completely unfamiliar vegetable as part of a school cooking and gardening competition, she discovers that her friends are eager to lend help and advice from their own culinary cultures. This picture book for ages 6 to 8 spotlights how a gracious balance between competition and cooperation can lead to a winning result.

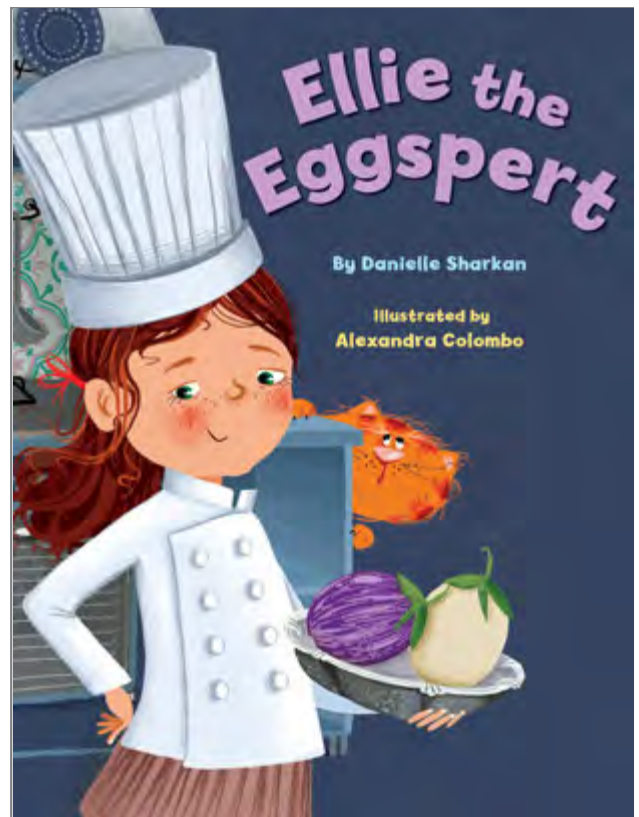
Ellie is determined to win the class gardening and cooking competition. And why wouldn't she? She's an expert chef, of course.

Then she is assigned eggplant as her main ingredient and isn't even sure what an eggplant is. Do eggplants hatch eggs? Can she make it into an omelet? A soufflé? A cake?

Ellie realizes she is completely stumped and must accept that maybe she isn't an expert at everything. Her friends are generous with their help, and together they create a winning entry none of them could have done alone.

Danielle Sharkan grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. She has studied around the world for many years, learning new languages and tasting new foods. Inspired by the people and places in her life, Danielle's stories aim to bring people together, honor the past, and create hope for the future. She is the author of *Sharing Shalom*. Danielle lives in Boulder, Colorado.

Alexandra Colombo has illustrated more than 200 books in countries around the world. She was born in Sofia, Bulgaria and attended secondary school in Italy, specializing in scientific studies. She then studied at the Milan European Institute of Design, receiving a degree in illustration. Alexandra's charming artwork captures the magic, idiosyncrasies and unique personalities of children and animals in memorable, colorful settings. She lives in Milan, Italy.



Key Themes:

Asking for Help, Experimentation, Persistence, Sharing Cultures

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Ages 5–8 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children. Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

Before Reading

- What do you think the author's word "eggspert" means in this story?
- When you look at the front cover, what is Ellie dressed as?
- Take a quick peek at the pictures and stop on page 6. How does Ellie look? What is her expression telling us?
- What do you think this story will be about?

After Reading

- What are some of Ellie's talents that are named in the story?
- If this story was about you, what talents would you list?
- Was Ellie familiar with eggplant and how to cook it in the beginning of the story?
- Who played an important part in helping Ellie to create an EGGstraordinary eggplant sandwich in the competition?

Optional: Extension Activity

- Create a mini picture/word book of the talents you possess now. Then think about adding some new skills that you would like to learn.
- If you were in the competition, what food would you make? Draw and tell about it.





