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# Applesauce Season



## Synopsis

A taste of fall: Celebrated editor Eden Lipson and Caldecott Medal winner Mordicai Gerstein celebrate a fall family ritual in Applesauce Season, a picture book rich with the colors and flavors of the season. When the first apples of the season--Ida Red and Paula Red, Twenty Ounce, McIntosh, and Ginger Gold--show up in the city markets, it's time to take out the big pot and make applesauce. A lovingly recounted description of a family's applesauce-making ritual describes the buying, peeling, cooking and stirring; the wait for the sauce to cool and the first taste. Mordicai Gerstein's paintings are full of the colors and flavors of the season: red apples, orange leaves, blue skies. Here's a lovely picture book celebrating an American family tradition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD940L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press; 1 edition (August 4, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596432160

ISBN-13: 978-1596432161

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #125,005 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Farming & Agriculture](#) #268 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical](#) #358 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

What do you get when you combine access to farmers' markets with an old family tradition of slicing, cooking, and mashing? Different varieties of delicious applesauce, that's what. A young child's family is fortunate enough to indulge its taste for fresh apples in the city's various farmers' markets, where every few weeks the apples sold change in color and taste: MacIntosh, Macoun, Winesap, and Mutsu, to name just a few. Everyone in the family helps in some way in cooking up scrumptious batches of applesauce and dishes made with applesauce. This engaging story offers an

excellent opportunity to talk with young learners about some basic concepts in economics, including natural resources and markets. Particularly important is the role of farmers' markets in helping urban residents to meet their needs for fresh fruits and vegetables, a point emphasized in both the text and illustrations.

What a great lasting posthumous tribute to Ms. Lipson, the book's author. The family works together to make its annual batch of apple sauce in the city. A bespeckled boy heads to the farmers' market to get various types of apples. He helps his grandmother and family make the sauce. His mother cuts the apples in quarters, his grandmother in sixths, and thus traditions are passed down. The book includes a great recipe at the end, and the boy wonders if he will like sauce or pie when he grows older. Now, where can I get some winesaps and jonagolds and a food grinder?

The streets are busy with children, but soon it will be time to go back to school. About this time Grandma says, "It's time for applesauce." There are apples that are ready earlier, but it is the peak season for other fruits and the best time to eat them. The city is lively and there are no apple trees, but there are markets where bushels of them await families who want to make applesauce. A little boy tugs his little dog toward the apples, but Grandma is already choosing six pounds she will need for the sauce. At summer's end there can be found Ida Red, Paul Red Macintosh, Twenty Ounce and Ginger Gold. Later others will come. At home the apples are "dumped in the kitchen sink and washed." The boy stands on a stepladder, washes them carefully and hands them to his mother. Grandma had selected three different kinds for "real flavor." The apples are handed down the line. His mother cuts them in quarters, hands them to Grandma and she cuts them in sixths. That's just the way it is done. Then into the pot, seeds and all, they go. Water is added and soon they will be "soft and bubbly and start to smell good." Mmmmmmm! Cinnamon sugar, a food mill and lots of love will go into making this special sauce that changes as the weeks go by! Whether you live in the city or the country, family food traditions make for very special times. I thoroughly enjoyed watching this family make applesauce from the selection of the apples at the farmer's market to placing the finished product on the table. The artwork was charming and all the smiling faces meshed perfectly with the tale. In the end pages there are illustrations of the family and an assortment of apples, each with a name beneath. In the back of the book is the recipe for the applesauce made in the book. This would be a perfect book to read during an apple season. It will be hard to resist trying out the recipe in this book!

I love reading this book to my children. They love learning apple variety names. We now make applesauce regularly and the kids participate based on what they have learned in the book. A must have in any children's home library.

Our family LOVES this book. We have been renting it from the Library every fall since our child was 3. Now that she is 6, we finally bought our own copy, as she loves to read it over and over again. Great book to get in tune with the seasons, best followed by an apple picking outing and of course, a homemade apple sauce fest!

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