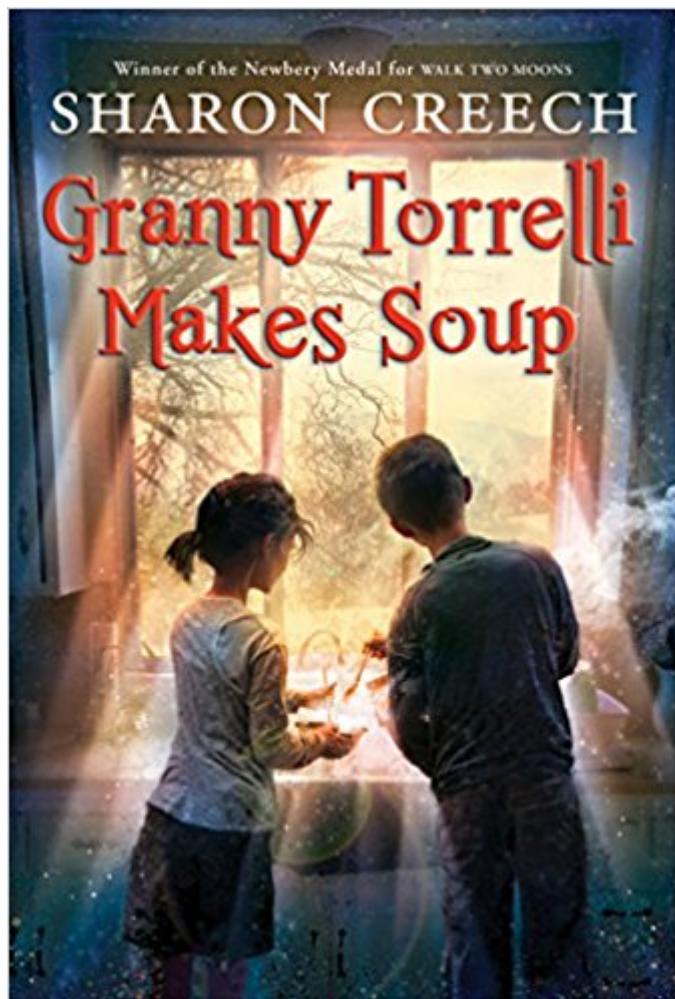


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# Granny Torrelli Makes Soup



## **Synopsis**

Bailey, who is usually so nice, Bailey, my neighbor, my friend, my buddy, my pal for my whole life, knowing me better than anybody, that Bailey, that Bailey I am so mad at right now, that Bailey, I hate him today. Twelve-year-old Rosie and her best friend, Bailey, don't always get along, that's true. But Granny Torrelli seems to know just how to make things right again with her interesting stories and family recipes. It's easier to remember what's important about love, life, and friendship while Granny Torrelli makes soup.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 810 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 80 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #50,755 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #146 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #1101 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

In this endearing story by Newberry Medal-winner Sharon Creech, a wise old Italian granny skillfully imparts life advice (and cooking lessons) to her winning but sometimes obstinate 12-year-old granddaughter. Best known for *Walk Two Moons* and *The Wanderer*, Creech makes good use of another inventive format: Rosie's story unfolds first, over making and eating zuppa, and then Granny Torrelli tells parallel stories from her own childhood to help Rosie with her current predicament. Granny Torrelli's tales are laced with endearing, fun-to-say Italian: "I didn't like it, not one piccolino bit," as is her attempt to help Rosie mend her rift with her best friend Bailey ("That

Bailey boy!"), for whom she's starting to feel more-than-friendship feelings. The details of both Rosie's and Granny Torrelli's respective stories are often quite funny (from Braille jealousy to secret guide-dog training for the legally blind Bailey). But, as usual, what Creech does best is slyly proffer small, nourishing morsels of wisdom--not unlike the cavatelli, the "little dough canoes," that Rosie, Granny Torrelli, and that Bailey boy labor over in the book's sweet second half. Just be warned that you might find yourself starving by the end of the story. (Ages 9 to 12) --Paul Hughes --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grade 4-7-Tastes and smells emerge along with wisdom and insight as a grandmother and grandchild reveal experiences past and present in the warmth of the kitchen. Rosie and Bailey are neighbors, born only a week apart. They are like sister and brother, only better "because I chose him and he chose me." She has always been his helper as he was born visually impaired. But now they have had a falling out. As Rosie tells Granny, Bailey is acting spiteful, all because she tried to be just like him. To be just like Bailey--her buddy, her pal--Rosie secretly learned to read Braille and unknowingly took away the special thing only he could do. When the two of them come together with Granny Torrelli in the kitchen and make cavatelli, the rift between them heals. Stories and wisdom continue as sauce and meatballs are made, helping to clarify feelings. As family and friends raise a glass of water to toast the cooks, Rosie realizes that her world is indeed bigger as is Bailey's; that tutto va bene--all is well! Twelve-year-old Rosie's narration seamlessly integrates Granny Torrelli's stories and fleeting conversations in short chapters. Her authentic voice gradually reveals what has happened and the accompanying emotions ranging from anger and angst to happiness and contentment. The integration of the Italian kitchen and Granny's family stories from the old country add flavor just like the ingredients in her recipes. This is a meal that should not be missed. Maria B. Salvadore, formerly at District of Columbia Public LibraryCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup is a wonderful book. As an adult, I laughed, felt sad, and really became attached to the story. I am a Reading Mentor to a young girl who is learning to read. This mentoring program is fantastic. She lives on the east coast and I am here in California. We write letters to each other about the books we are reading. This also helps her in learning english. This book was a "chosen" book by the website N2Books. Check it out. You only have to write 5 letters in the whole school year, and it helps our children to learn to read. Your child will love this book, and it has a wonderful meaning to all the mischief when you get to the end. If you read to your child, this is a

very cute and touching story about a young girl's relationship with her best friend and how it evolves with the help of her grandmother. IN2Books even has the recipe for Granny Torrelli's soup!

this was one of 5 bks on a list from which my daughter was to choose 1 to read this summer before entering 4th grade; we chose it after reading the synopses on all bks on the list; the narrator, 12 yr old Rosie, tells the story entirely in dialogue, therefore, it very much lent itself to reading aloud; my daughter & I did this snuggling together @ home & on our beach vacation; it was perfect for a mother & daughter, or grandmother & granddaughter to enjoy together; the main characters cooking together provides an extra layer, through which the story is told, both about Rosie's contemporary situation, & Granny Torelli's parallel one as a young girl who immigrated from Italy to America as a teenager; it was a delight to see into the relationships of this family, & watch Granny Torelli impart her mature wisdom to her grandchild; Rosie learned to step out of herself & see situations from the point of view of others, learned the importance of special relationships in each of our lives, & learned to concentrate on the big picture & not less important details; like soup for a meal, the book is simple & quick, but packed w/flavor to savor; I am not sure why more of the 50+ reviews did not give more stars; give this one a chance; you will not be sorry you came along for the "pasta party"

My grand daughter and I read this together for a book club my grand daughter belongs to. She is 9. Very high reading level and comprehension. We agree that this book was much easier to read than Walk Two Moons, but neither one of us really like Ms. Creech's style of writing. These books were required reading....

This book lives and breaths the love of family and friends. It invites the wisdom of a grandparent into the intricacies of deep friendship. After reading this book, I sent it to both of me granddaughters because I knew they would cherish it as much.

wonderful for children, present

My family is Italian and I loved the story of grandmother cooking with her children and the story that interwove with the cooking.

Ummm I loved the book but I read it in 3 days and it got confuseing as you read it because as it goes along like this; Balie was sometimes mad at Rosie and you kinda forget what happens.

Warm, comfort-food type of book.

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