

(Narrator)

OGGIE COODER by Sarah Weeks

(Narrator)

One day, after breakfast Oggie Cooder picked up the morning mail, and began to sort through it.

(Oggie)

Bills, bills, junk, bills...Hold on. Is this what I think it is? Yes!

(Narrator)

He held the long pale blue envelope aloft.

(Oggie)

Prrrrr-ip! Prrrrr-ip!

(Narrator)

Oggie fluttered his tongue against the roof of his mouth. He always made that sound when he was excited about something.

(Narrator)

At the moment, the something he was excited about was a letter from the Bakestuff Company about the name-the-new bagel contest he had entered several weeks earlier.

(Oggie)

I *knew* they wouldn't be able to resist it. *Raisin' the Roof*. Who's going to come up with a better name than that for a cinnamon raisin bagel?

(Narrator)

Oggie had gotten the idea from something he'd overheard his mother say on the phone one day when she was talking to his Aunt Hettie.

(Mrs Cooder)

You better warn the neighbors, Hettie 'cause we're definitely going to be raisin' the roof.

(Oggie)

What's the matter with Aunt Hettie's roof?

(Mrs. Cooder)

That's just an expression Oggie. Raisin' the roof means having a good time. Aunt Hettie and I were talking about the family reunion we're going to have this summer.

(Oggie)

Oh. Is Uncle Vern coming?

(Narrator)

Uncle Vern was Oggie's favorite relative, he drove a pick up truck with a jacked up rear end, and he could make his bellybutton talk without using his hands.

(Narrator)

But Uncle Vern and his talking bellybutton were far from Oggie's thoughts as he ripped open the envelope from the Bakestuff Company and began to read...

(Oggie)

'Dear Mr Cooder. We thank you for your entry. However, we regret to inform you...' FRAPPUCCINO!

(Narrator)

There was no cussing allowed in Oggie's house. Mrs. Cooder kept a big jar on the kitchen counter and anyone who slipped up had to put a quarter in it. Oggie didn't see the point of wasting his allowance on expensive cuss words when there were plenty of good free words you could use instead.

(Oggie)

(grumbling) Frap. Frap. Frappuccino.

(Narrator)

Not only had the people at Bakestuff been unimpressed with the name he'd come up with, Oggie couldn't believe what they'd chosen instead.

(Oggie)

Sunshine? What kind of a name is that for a bagel? It doesn't even have the word raisin in it.

(Narrator)

Meanwhile, directly across the street, Oggie's spoiled brat of a neighbor, Donnica Perfecto was sitting at the breakfast table doing what she did best --

ALL

Whining.

(Donnica)

Daddy, *please* won't you buy us a house in Hollywood so we can move there?

(Mr. & Mrs. Perfecto)

Hollywood?

(Narrator)

From the moment she could talk, if you asked Donnica Perfecto what she wanted to be when she grew up, she would say the same thing --

(Donnica)

Famous!

(Narrator)

The only problem was, she had absolutely no talent. (*Donnica sneers at him*)

(Mrs. Perfecto)

Why in the world would we want to live in Hollywood?

(Donnica)

Well you don't really expect me to live *here* forever, do you?

(Mrs. Perfecto)

Why? What's wrong with Wawatosa?

(Donnica)

It's in *Wisconsin*. How am I supposed to get discovered in a place where the only thing that's famous is *cheese*?"

(Narrator)

Oggie and Donnica were in the same 4th grade class at Truman Elementary School, but they weren't friends. At least Donnica wasn't friends with Oggie. Oggie Cooder was ...

Narrator

...a dweeb.

Narrator

A dork.

Narrator

A total doofus.

(Narrator)

He wore strange clothes, made weird noises with his mouth –

(Oggie)

Prrrrr- ip! Prrrr – ip!

(Narrator)

And he spent a great deal of time and energy *charving* cheese.

(Narrator)

Charving, a combination of the words *chewing* and *carving* involved taking a slice of processed American cheese and carefully nibbling it into the shape of one of the 50 United States.

(narrator)

Oggie enjoyed charving so much he always made a point of carrying a couple of slices of cheese in his back pocket.

(Narrator)

As Oggie started off to school that morning after receiving the bad news about his bagel name, he noticed Donnica Perfecto walking up ahead, her bubblegum pink backpack slung over one shoulder.

(Oggie)

Hey Donnica! Wait up!

(Narrator)

Donnica glanced over her shoulder at Oggie.

(Donnica)

Ewww.

(Narrator)

Donnica began to walk faster so Oggie started running until finally he caught up with her.

(Donnica)

(annoyed) What do you want?

(Oggie)

I was thinking maybe we could practice the spelling words together on the way to school. I even made some flash cards. My dog tried to eat them, but don't worry, most of the spit should be dry by now.

(Donnica)

I have two words for you Oggie Cooder and they're both EEEEEW.

(Narrator)

The light changed, and Donnica flounced away without looking back.

(Narrator)

Later that same morning Oggie's teacher, Mr. Snolinovsky gave them a spelling test.

(TEACHER)

Remember class, you are to use each spelling word in a sentence and the sentences must make sense.

(Narrator)

He gave them ten minutes to complete the test. The words they had been assigned that week all ended in the letters *o-u-s*.

(Narrator)

During the test, Oggie's mind kept drifting back to the bagel contest, but when Mr. Snolinovsky told them it was time to put their pencils down, he felt fairly confident that he'd done well, thanks to his handy dandy flashcards.

(TEACHER)

Instead of marking your tests myself today, I'm going to ask you to mark one another's work. Please pass your paper up one seat to the person sitting directly in front of you.

(Narrator)

The person who sat directly in front of Oggie Cooder was Donnica Perfecto.

(TEACHER)

The first word is RIDICULOUS. R-I-D-I-C-U-L----*O-U-S*. Please make sure that the word is spelled correctly and that it has been used properly in a sentence.

(Narrator)

Mr. Snolinovsky cleared his throat, ready to move on to the next word, when he noticed that Donnica's hand was raised.

(Donnica)

What do we do if the person spelled the word right, but the sentence doesn't make any sense?

(Narrator)

Good question, thought Oggie, until it occurred to him that the sentence Donnica was talking about was *his*.

(TEACHER)

Are you *sure* the sentence doesn't make sense?

(Donnica)

Positive. It says: 'Someone is a ridiculous man funny bongo.'

(Oggie)

It does not!

(Donnica)

Does so! Someone is a ridiculous man, funny bongo.

(Oggie)

You just can't read my handwriting. It says, 'Sunshine is a ridiculous name for a bagel.'

(Narrator)

Kids were hooting and clapping by now. And it only got worse when it was revealed that *all* of Oggie's o-u-s spelling word sentences were about bagels.

(Oggie)

It was a VISCIIOUS idea to name the bagel *Sunshine*.

There is nothing DELICIOUS about a bagel named *Sunshine*.

It was not very GENEROUS to name the bagel. Sunshine.

(Teacher)

I don't understand, Oggie. Why is the bagel named Sunshine?

(Oggie)

I don't know! If you ask me, *Raisin' The Roof* is a much better name, don't you think?

(Narrator)

And with that, Oggie reached into his back pocket, pulled out a slice of Processed American cheese and happily began to charve.

(Oggie)

Prrrrr-ip! Prrrrrip!