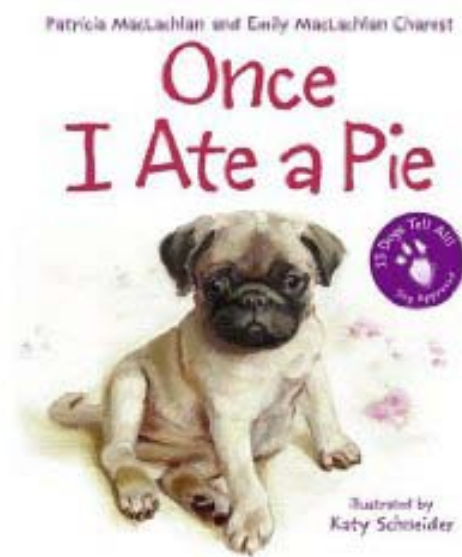


# *Once I Ate a Pie*



Written by: Patricia MacLachlan and  
Emily MacLachlan Charest

Illustrated by: Katy Schneider

Copyright: 2006

Publisher: HarperCollins

# About the Author: Patricia MacLachlan



Patricia MacLachlan is young readers' author, who has written many books, including: *Arthur, For the Very First Time, The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt, Sarah, Plain and Tall, Skylark, Caleb's Story, and More Perfect Than the Moon.* *Arthur, For the Very First Time* is the winner of the Golden Kite Award for fiction and *Sarah, Plain and Tall* is a Newbery Medal winner. She also writes picture books. Some of these include: *Who Loves Me?, Three Names, What You Know First, and All the Places to Love and Bittle, Painting the Wind, and Once I Ate a Pie.* She wrote *Once I Ate a Pie* with her daughter, Emily. She has two border terriers at home.

Patricia MacLachlan currently lives in Williamsburg, Massachusetts with her husband. She says that her book topics tap her on the shoulder. After conversations with her new character, she is ready to start a new book. Patricia MacLachlan does not have a webpage of her own; however, information is available through HarperCollins, the publisher for *Once I Ate a Pie*. HarperCollin's website is: [http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/12425/Patricia\\_MacLachlan/index.aspx](http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/12425/Patricia_MacLachlan/index.aspx).

# About the Author:

## Emily MacLachlan Charest

Emily MacLachlan Charest lives in Stow, Massachusetts. She lives with her husband, daughter, two dogs, and one cat, who she says thinks he is a dog. She currently works with small children. *Bittle* and *Painting the Wind* are also other books co-written by Emily MacLachlan Charest. Her mother is Patricia MacLachlan, with whom she co-wrote *Once I Ate a Pie*. More information can be found on the publisher's website, HarperCollins Publishers, [http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/30053/Emily\\_MacLachlan\\_Charest/index.aspx](http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/30053/Emily_MacLachlan_Charest/index.aspx)

## About the Illustrator: Katy Schneider



Katy Schneider is a painter who has won many awards for her work over the years. She received the “Massachusetts Cultural Council Artists Grant, the New England Foundation for the Arts Regional Fellowship, the Blanche Coleman Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Purchase Prize” (Schneider website). In 2006, she won the Bank Street College of Education's Irma S. and James H. Black Book Award for *Once I Ate a Pie*. Katy Schneider got her B.A. from Yale University and her M.F.A. from Indiana University. She is currently teaching beginning drawing to college students. Further information about Katy Schneider can be found at <http://www.katyschneider.com/>.

# Annotation

MacLachlan, Patricia & MacLachlan Charest, Emily. *Once I Ate a Pie*. New York:HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.

The authors take the reader through the mind of several dogs. Children will find humor in what each dog is thinking. The dogs talk about their people and wonder why the people do what they do. Each page layout introduces a new dog with a new character trait. The book is written as individual poems.

The pictures are wonderfully painted. They add an element of reality to each of the dogs. Each brush stroked painted picture accurately shows the dogs' characteristics the authors are writing about.

## Genre

Poetry

## Point of View

First person, from the point of view of each individual dog.

## Theme

The theme for *Once I Ate a Pie* is that each dog has a tale to tell about his/her life as a dog.

## Conflict/Conflict Resolution

There is no real conflict in this story, as it is a collection of short poems, each about a different dog.

# Characters

Each page features a different character, as each page introduces a different dog. Some of the dogs' names are: Lucy, Wupsi, Darla, Pocket, and Louis.

# Setting

The story takes place in each of the dog's different homes.

# Interest Level

Interest grade level: K-3 (according to Follet Library Resources)

Interest age level: 4-8 (according to BTSB)

# Reading Level

Reading grade level: 1.4

# Booktalk

Have you ever heard of a dog eating a pie? No! Well, what other things have you heard of dogs eating that they should not? Shoes? Slippers? If a dog could talk, what would it say? Would it tell you to "sit, lay, or go away"? In the story, *Once I Ate a Pie*, you will meet Gus who opens the bathroom door when people are in it; Mr. Beefy, who ate a pie; Lucy, who thinks the couch, bed, chairs, and pillows are just hers; Sugar who is too tired to get out of bed; and Needle Nose, who gets into all kinds of things, like the refrigerator. You will need to read the rest of the book to meet the other dogs and learn more about Gus, Mr. Beefy, Lucy, Sugar, and Needle Nose.

# Language

Words that may need to be defined:

- Herder- a person or animal in charge of keeping sheep or cattle in one area
- Yip- a sharp bark, usually made by a young or small dog
- Sly- another word for clever or tricky

# Indiana Academic Standards

Reading K.2.2, K.2.3, K.3.3, K.7.5

Reading 1.1.7, 1.2.3, 1.2.6

Reading 2.2.6, 2.3.4

Reading 3.2.2, 3.2.4, 3.3.1, 3.3.3, 3.3.4

# Anticipation Statements

Before		<i>Once I Ate a Pie</i> By Patricia MacLachlan	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Dogs never get into trouble.		
		All dogs like other dogs.		
		Dogs bark to get what they want.		
		Dogs have different characteristics that determine the way they act.		
		Some dogs are shy.		

# Art Medium

The illustrations in *Once I Ate a Pie* are brightly colored and bring each dog to life. I could not find information on the art medium used, but by looking at the pictures, they appear to be brushstrokes of paint.