

FAMILY FEAST!

In conversation with
Carole Boston Weatherford,
author of *Family Feast!*



When it comes to a family feast, it's all-hands-on-deck! Where can we find you during prep time?

As host or cohost, I'm usually in the kitchen before guests arrive, roasting a turkey, chicken, or duck. I also pitch in for the veggies.

What do your family feasts look like? Who is attending? What are you eating? Are there any specific family traditions you work to uphold?

The characters in the book are named for my relatives. When I was growing up, my family's feasts included at least three generations: grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles, and cousins. In days past, we would have had two meats, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, deviled eggs, macaroni and cheese, greens, and green beans. As elders became saints, the gatherings got smaller, as did the family units. As a result, there are fewer seats and fewer dishes on the table. At the same time, the dishes have become more health conscious. However, I still like to honor my late grandmother's tradition of baking yeast rolls.



Why do you think that food plays such a central role in family gatherings and traditions?

Like music, food is like a universal language that speaks to our hearts. Food bridges generations and miles.

You've collaborated with Frank Morrison on multiple picture books. Do you have a favorite illustration from this book?

I love the spreads that include the dog, which is based on beagles that I have owned. My current dog Gigi, a notorious beggar, will be unfazed by her cameo, though, unless it comes with table scraps.

