

小松鼠的南瓜汤：一次失败，一次用心

森林小学布置了一项生活作业：为家人做一样东西。小松鼠选了煮南瓜汤。它回家先请教松鼠奶奶怎么煮。奶奶说，南瓜切小块，水煮开再下锅，煮软以后加盐，加完盐一定要尝。小松鼠把奶奶的话背了三遍，觉得自己全记住了。

第二天它动手了。切菜、烧水、下锅，都照着做。加盐时它心里想，奶奶做菜那么好吃，一定是因为盐放得多，于是多放了两勺。它没有尝，直接盛了一碗端给妈妈。妈妈喝了一口，眉头皱起来，但没有说破，只问了一句：你自己尝过了吗？小松鼠接过碗尝了一口，咸得直吐舌头，这才知道自己闯了祸。

问题出在哪儿？它记住了步骤，却漏掉了奶奶最强调的那一句：加完盐一定要尝。煮汤就像写看图写话，写完要自己读一遍，自己读一遍就知道哪句话不通顺。尝味道，就是煮汤的那一遍自读。

小松鼠倒掉咸汤，重新洗菜、重新烧水。这一次它把小勺放在锅边，随时提醒自己尝。盐不再用手抓，改成用小指尖捏着加，加一次，尝一次，让舌头认真感受汤是淡还是咸。火也守着，水咕嘟大了就转小。第三次的汤端上桌，妈妈喝了一碗，又给奶奶送去一碗。

小松鼠在作业本上写：第一次失败，是因为我以为记住步骤就够了；第二次成功，是因为我用心尝了每一次的味道。做事要用心，不怕失败——失败会把错处指给你看，用心才能把它改过来。

Little Squirrel's Pumpkin Soup: One Failure, One Careful Try

The forest primary school gave the children a life-skills homework: make something for your family. Little Squirrel chose pumpkin soup. It went home and asked Grandma Squirrel how to make it. Grandma said: cut the pumpkin into small pieces, wait for the water to boil before putting it in, add salt after it softens, and once you add salt, you must taste it. Little Squirrel repeated Grandma's words three times and was sure it had memorized everything.

The next day it got to work. Cutting, boiling, putting the pumpkin in—it followed every step. When it was time for salt, it thought to itself: Grandma's cooking is so tasty, it must be because she uses lots of salt. So it added two extra spoonfuls. It didn't taste anything. It just ladled a bowl and brought it to Mom. Mom took a sip, frowned, but didn't say it was bad. She only asked one question: did you taste it yourself? Little Squirrel took a sip and stuck out its tongue from the saltiness, realizing it had made a mess.

Where was the problem? It had memorized the steps but missed the one line Grandma stressed most: once you add salt, you must taste. Making soup is like writing a

picture composition—after you finish, you read it through yourself, and reading shows you which sentences don't flow. Tasting is that self-reading in cooking.

Little Squirrel poured out the salty soup, washed the vegetables again, and boiled fresh water. This time it kept the small spoon resting on the rim of the pot as a reminder to taste. No more grabbing salt by hand—it pinched the salt with its fingertips, added a bit, tasted once, letting its tongue carefully judge whether the soup was bland or salty. It also watched the flame, turning it down whenever the bubbling grew too big. The third bowl went to the table. Mom finished one bowl and carried another to Grandma.

In the homework notebook, Little Squirrel wrote: the first try failed because I thought memorizing the steps was enough; the second try worked because I tasted carefully every time. Do things with care and don't fear failure—failure points out what is wrong, and only care can fix it.