

This activity was written by Candace Walkington.

Gator Pie Party

Gator Pie, by Louise Matthews, is an excellent introduction to concepts of fractions and “equal sharing” for lower elementary students. Here is an extension activity for this book that we will explore in groups:

Alice is planning to have a party for a couple of her closest gator friends, and she wants to bake some more delicious gator pies! Alice has enough ingredients to make three gator pies, and she thinks that including herself, there will be four gators coming to her party.

However, Alice doesn't know how to divide 3 gator pies evenly among 4 gators. She also is worried about how to divide the pies if there are only 2 gators at the party, or if some of the gators bring friends and there are 5 or 6 gators at the party. Write a short letter to Alice explaining how she could divide 3 gator pies between 2, 4, or 5, or 6 gators, so that everyone gets the same amount.

Also, if you want to really impress Alice, tell her how she would evenly divide the pies if she cuts them for 4 gators, and then 2 more hungry gators show up at the last minute. Or if she cuts the pies for 5 gators, and then 1 gator decides they don't want pie after all (unimaginable!).

Use pictures to make sure Alice knows exactly what to do, and be sure to explain your process so that Alice can solve similar problems herself for future parties.

