

Oral Reading Test

- ▶ Anyone can cook. That was the motto of Julia Child. She was a chef known for her sense of humor and her ability to explain fancy French recipes to everyday people.

Child was not always an excellent cook. In fact, she joked that her husband married her in spite of her cooking. But after a trip to France, Child fell in love with fine food. She studied French cooking in Paris and learned from some of the world's best chefs.

Later, Child starred in her own cooking show on television. Hers was one of the first shows of its kind. The show, titled *The French Chef*, was filmed in the kitchen of her own house. Child insisted on this setting because she wanted to show viewers that they could cook fancy meals using the tools and supplies found in most home kitchens.

The French Chef was a huge success. People loved to watch Child butcher a chicken with abandon and sprinkle seasonings into a pot without measuring. The show was informative and filled with humor. Child never took herself too seriously. She did not want people to feel intimidated by fancy names used in French cooking. She always explained cooking vocabulary in plain language that anyone could understand.

Child wanted everyone to feel at ease in the kitchen. She even pointed out her own mistakes and how she could fix them. During a cooking demonstration on the David Letterman show, Letterman asked her a question: "Have you ever cooked something, Julia, that just turned out awful?"

"Yeah, lots of times," she replied, as if it didn't matter at all.

"What do you do then?" the host asked.

"I give it to my husband," she joked, and the audience erupted with laughter.