

1. Maple Taffy

Every spring, Marina's family made maple syrup and taffy. When the sap ran in the maple trees, they tapped them and cooked the sap over a fire to make syrup. Then, they made delicious taffy. Marina's mouth watered just thinking about it!

They waited for the right temperatures: above freezing during the day and below freezing at night. Then the sap would rise.

The trees in their yard were large. Marina's dad drilled three holes in each trunk, and Marina tapped a metal spout into each hole. They hung buckets on the spouts and waited for the sap to fill them. Drip, drip, drop!

Mom got out the sugaring pot, and Dad cleaned the fire pit. They collected kindling and firewood and set up a grate to hold the pot.

The sap in the buckets looked like water. They poured it into the sugaring pot over the fire and brought it to a boil. The sap bubbled and rolled, and great puffs of steam billowed out of the pot. It took a long time to boil down!

While they waited, Marina and her brother played in the yard. They pretended to be explorers in the woods, finding treasures and secret paths. The time passed quickly as they had fun.

Finally, the syrup was ready. Dad poured it into jars while Mom made the taffy. Marina and her brother watched eagerly. They couldn't wait to taste the sweet treats.

That evening, they all sat around the table and enjoyed the syrup and taffy. Marina felt happy and proud. She loved this family tradition and looked forward to it every spring.

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