

The Answer in a Cookbook

A sixth-grade girl was running for the post of secretary of her elementary school class.

A major part of her campaign was a speech to be given to her classmates, but she had no idea what to say. So she asked her mother for ideas.

“Well, you love to cook,” her mom said. “Why don’t you look in a cookbook?”



The girl thought it was the stupidest idea she’d ever heard, but, desperate, she followed her mother’s advice.

Then, flipping through the pages, it hit her: Why not write a recipe for what would make a good class secretary? Two cups of good handwriting, one cup of dependability, and so on.

Jan Bolick, now a management coach, won the election. But she also learned to look in unusual places for creative solutions.

Today, Bolick is the founder and owner of Business Class, Inc., based in Chapel Hill, N.C.

She believes that work should be enjoyable – even fun – especially since most of us spend more time at work than anywhere else. Bolick said it drives her mad thinking about all the people who don’t enjoy their work.

From personal experience, backed by research, she knows that “the most frequent reason people dislike their work is because of their leader or manager.”

Leaders must learn “to develop a take-charge, make-it-happen, inspirational style of leadership,” she said.

Words fitly spoken. These suggestions – creativity, looking for solutions in unusual places, making-it-happen and inspirational styles of leadership – will serve us all well.

– Beecher Hunter