

## **Badger's Fancy Meal**

Keiko Kasza

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2007

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Badger is bored with the same old meals, but his search for more exciting food only leads to trouble.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY.....**

*Hedgie's Surprise*, Jan Brett

*Hungry Hen*, Richard Waring

*What's the Time, Grandma Wolf?*, Ken Brown

*Bear Snores On*, Karma Wilson

### **WEBSITES:**

Environmental Education for Kids!,

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/EEK/critter/mammal/badger.htm>,

This website gives a brief description of Wisconsin's State Animal, the badger.

Penguin Books,

<http://us.penguinroup.com/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,1000020052,00.html>,

This website gives some information about the author, Keiko Kasza.

Steve Jackson's Badger Pages,

<http://www.badgers.org.uk/badgerpages/badgers-06.html>,

This website offers a look at many different badgers of the world, including pictures and what they eat.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Badger is hungry! But he's not hungry for the usual, boring things he eats. He wants a fancy meal. How about a rabbit-banana split or a mole taco with hot spicy salsa? What shall he do? As he comes across the items to make his fancy meal, each one of them escapes and just happens upon a great place to hide! When Badger gets back home, he realizes he should have been thankful for what he had!

Keiko Kasza has cleverly illustrated this book to include the special hiding place in the corners behind flipped pages.

To find out what kind of meal Badger actually eats, read Badger's Fancy Meal by Keiko Kasza.

Prepared by: Jennifer Kauffman

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## **Before You Were Mine**

Maribeth Boelts

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2007

28 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This book is a heartwarming story about a boy who wonders what his dog's life was like before the boy adopted him.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Not Afraid of Dogs*, Susanna Pitzer

*Angus Lost*, Marjorie Flack

*Dex: The Heart of a Hero*, Caralyn Buehner

*The Dog Child*, Simon Black

*The Dog Who Belonged to No One*, Amy Hest

### **WEBSITES:**

[www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/dog/popular.shtml](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/dog/popular.shtml)

Printouts and brief descriptions of 50 popular dogs

[www.facthound.com](http://www.facthound.com)

Type in this special code, 0736826068 for age-appropriate sites; Click on the Fetch It button.

[www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)

The website of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Under "Pet Care," check out "Dog Care."

### **BOOKTALK:**

The boy in this story wonders about his dog's life before they came together. He wonders if his dog had a warm house, a boy to run with, or a boy to do tricks with.

He wonders if his dog had another name like Gus or Sam or Teddy.

He wonders how it felt for his dog to be on his own, alone and eating whatever he could find which wasn't much.

But then he decides that maybe it doesn't matter what happened before because now his dog is home and has him to love.

Enjoy this heartwarming book about an adopted dog that brings happiness to his new owner and finds happiness for himself.

Prepared by: Debbie Lindsay

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**Word Search**  
**Before You Were Mine**  
**Maribeth Boelts & David Walker**

B	P	E	T	A	E	R	J	F	M	H	W
O	I	M	B	L	I	C	K	K	L	U	A
E	P	W	E	V	N	Z	X	W	P	N	L
L	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	G	K
T	S	P	C	A	D	F	T	G	Y	R	E
S	M	N	B	V	C	Z	D	O	G	Y	R
S	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	A
C	K	A	A	D	O	P	T	E	D	A	B
A	H	J	K	F	G	Y	T	I	U	O	O
R	P	L	A	Y	A	S	J	K	P	O	Y
E	K	J	H	U	Y	I	G	E	R	U	Y
D	E	N	G	L	O	V	E	P	O	M	G

**Word Bank**

DOG  
ADOPTED  
PET  
SPCA  
LOVE  
HUNGRY  
LICK  
PLAY  
BOY  
SCARED  
BOELTS  
WALKER

## **Big Bad Wolves at School**

Stephen Krensky

Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007

[29] pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Rufus, a young wolf, has a hard time fitting in at the Big Bad Wolf Academy, where he has been sent to learn to huff and puff, until the day he uses his true talent.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Grumblebunny*, Bob Hartman

*Boy Who Cried Wolf*, B.G. Hennessy

*Wolf's Chicken Stew*, Keiko Kasza

*Wolf is Coming*, Elizabeth MacDonald

*Max: The Stubborn Little Wolf*, Marie–Odile Judes

*Big Bad Wolf is Good*, Simon Puttock

*Not Now, Mrs. Wolf*, Shen Roddie

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.stephenkrensky.com/>

<http://www.bradsneed.com/index.html>

### **BOOKTALK:**

Rufus is sent by his parents to the Big Bad Wolf Academy. All the other wolves learn things like huffing and puffing, disguising themselves and learning foreign languages (say “BAAA” like a sheep). Rufus is not interested and not very good at the school work. Read to find out how Rufus uses one of his talents like howling when it really counts. A Hooooowling good story - be sure to read this one!

Prepared by:

Louise Kay

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# Word Scramble

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Unscramble the words below:

1. sRfuu \_\_\_\_\_

2. igB \_\_\_\_\_

3. daB \_\_\_\_\_

4. fowl \_\_\_\_\_

5. edmAyac \_\_\_\_\_

6. sdisigue \_\_\_\_\_

7. egnoangrifeugla \_\_\_\_\_

8. hfuf \_\_\_\_\_

9. fupf \_\_\_\_\_

10. aehtaemrds \_\_\_\_\_

11. uhtrne \_ \_\_\_\_\_

12. gnoiwh \_\_\_\_\_

# Word Scramble

## Answer Key

PBA

1. sRfu is Rufus.
2. igB is Big.
3. daB is Bad .
4. foWl is Wolf.
5. edmAyac is Academy.
6. sdisigue is disguise.
7. egnoangrifeugla is foreign language.
8. hfuf is huff.
9. fupf is puff.
10. aehtaemrds is headmaster.
11. uhtrne is hunter.
12. gnoiwhl is howling.

## **A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever**

Marla Frazee  
Harcourt, 2008  
32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

Other books by Marla Frazee:

*Walk On! A guide to taking the first step*, Marla Frazee

*Roller Coaster*, Marla Frazee

*The Kookoory*, Marla Frazee

*Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild!*, Mem Fox, ill. by Marla Frazee

*The Seven Silly Eaters*, Mary Ann Hoberman, ill. by Marla Frazee

*Santa Claus: the world's number one toy expert*, Marla Frazee

Friendship:

*Skunkdog*, Emily Jenkins

*Dog and Bear: Two friends, three stories*, Laura Vaccaro Seeger

*Tacky the Penguin*, Helen Lester

Grandparents:

*The Hello, Goodbye Window*, Norton Juster and Chris Raschka

*Time of Wonder*, Robert McCloskey

*The Pink House*, Kate Salley Palmer

*Grandma Summer*, Harley Jessup

### **WEBSITES:**

Marla Frazee, <http://www.marlafrazee.com/> : Author's website with information about her books, how she creates her illustrations, and more.

KidZone Penguins, <http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/penguins/index.htm>: Site includes photographs, activities, and facts. Also has links for resources about other animals as well as lesson plans for preschool through grade 4.

Penguins InfoBook Index, <http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/penguin/index.htm> Great resource for information about penguins and other animals. Don't miss the Animal

Sounds Library: <http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/sound-library/index.htm>.

**BOOKTALK:**

James and Eamon are best friends who spend a week visiting Eamon's grandparents, Bill and Pam at the beach. James has never been away from home and is terribly homesick (yeah, right!), but the boys enjoy going to nature camp (more like sweat-a-lot camp) and eating LOTS of Pam's banana waffles. On their last night together, they finally get really busy with something that turns out to be the very best part of the best week ever! Want to know what it is?

Read *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever* by Marla Frazee.

Prepared by:

Alice Brice

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**DOGKU**  
Andrew Clements  
Simon & Schuster  
30 pages

**SUMMARY:**

DogKu is a picture book written in haiku.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY:**

*Bad Dog, Marley!*, John Grogan

*Chewy Louis*, Schnieder, Howie

*How to Talk to Your Dog*, George, Jean Craighead

*May I Pet Your Dog?: The How-to Guide for Kids Meeting Dogs (and Dogs Meeting Kids)*, Calmenson, Stephanie

**WEBSITES:**

Storyplace.org, <http://www.storyplace.org/preschool/preschool.asp?themeID=13>

Poetry Idea Engine,

[http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/flash\\_pie.htm](http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/flash_pie.htm)

**BOOKTALK:**

A family welcomes a stray dog into their home and names him Mooch. The dog eats good food, cleans up during bath time, enjoys affection from the children, and even gets into a bit of trouble as he chews on clothes and plays in the trash. Will his new family decide to keep him?

The story is told entirely in haiku poems, and the illustrations are in oil paint on canvas.

**Prepared by:**

Mary Masse

## **Duck at the Door**

Jackie Urbanovic

HarperCollins Publishers, 2007

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

On a cold winter night, a duck, Max, arrives at Irene's house. Once invited in, Max causes quite a bit of turmoil.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Ruby in Her Own Time*, Jonathan Emmett

*Guess Who Baby Duck?*, Jill Barton

*Duck & Goose*, Tad Hills

*Do Like a Duck Does*, Judy Hindley

*Come Along Daisy*, Jane Simmons

*Duck Soup*, Jackie Urbanovic

### **WEBSITES:**

Resource Center for Kids and Teachers. <http://kiddyhouse.com/>

This is an excellent site for teachers, parents and kids.

Kids.gov. <http://www.kids.gov/> You can find link to the government and other kids sites from this website.

KidsKonnnect. <http://www.kidskonnnect.com/content/view/438/27/>

This site provides a safe Internet gateway for kids.

Author's Homepage. [www.jackieurbanovic.com](http://www.jackieurbanovic.com) The author offers a peek into her private life, provides coloring pages of Max and a preview of her next book.

## **BOOKTALK:**

It was a bitter cold night when there was a knock on the door. The animals ran up the stairs to get Irene- she would know what to do! It was the middle of the night! Who could be knocking on the door? Irene carefully opened the door to find a duck, stuck deep in a snow drift.

Irene brought the duck inside and he explained that his name was Max, he had been born in the spring and loved it. He thought he would love winter too so he did not fly south and now he was cold and very lonely.

He is adopted by Irene and her many animal friends, but problems quickly surface. Join Max, Irene and all of the animals for a rollicking good time! Oh yes, there is a surprise ending!

Prepared by:

Joanne Schwartz

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## **Duck, Duck, Goose**

Tad Hills

Schwartz and Wade, February 2007

40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

When Thistle arrives in the meadow, her boastful ways threaten the peaceful friendship of Duck and Goose.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:**

*Duck and Goose*, Tad Hills

*A Bargain for Frances*, Lillian and Russell Hoban

*Chester's Way*, Kevin Henkes

*Anna Banana and Me*, Lenore Blegvad

### **WEBSITES:**

\*Bibliochat, <http://www.bibliochat.com/title/SD9GH1DBHHGUKS7>, an online book discussion about various books and authors

\*Family Fun.com, [http://familyfun.go.com/games/indoor-outdoor-games/game/famfgam\\_duck/](http://familyfun.go.com/games/indoor-outdoor-games/game/famfgam_duck/), resource for family fun and games, one of which is Duck, Duck, Goose

\*Teachers @ Random, <http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375840685>, a search engine for authors and reviews on their books

### **BOOKTALK:**

Goose finds himself in a situation when his best friend Duck meets a new duck, and one that likes to show off and win at that! Goose just wants to show Duck the butterfly that has landed on his head. He is surprised to realize that the annoying new duck that is following Duck around is his new friend Thistle, who really makes a terrible first impression and challenges Duck and Goose's friendship. Goose is even more stunned to find that Duck thinks that the three of them could be great friends! Thistle's showy ways soon get tiring for those around her. Anything Duck and Goose can do, she can do better! Goose soon decides that he's had enough and wanders off by himself, leaving Duck alone to realize that maybe Thistle really is a bit too much. Duck takes off to find his old friend and the pair quickly find their footing again. With a little bit of quick-thinking, Duck and Goose find a game that they are glad to let Thistle win.

Prepared by:

Julie Toole

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Duck, Duck, Goose

R A P Y R Z O G S E S P Z S N R  
A R U G E T N M O N T A Y N O D  
W L R Y E E H Z D N W A E R N N  
E G S R V S R D M M Y J R L V O  
M Y L O T O W S W T X D T G O K  
O K L H Q P T L L P U U T O R R  
P G T F R I L T I S M C T O L N  
G S E O R G S H S D R K O S A G  
H M H T F E S I I S A E D E S D  
I O E A N D T S P N K N L E T J  
P S E A N O I T I T E P M O C G  
A O N E P T N L U I L A E M J M  
F A I Y M O M E R B G Z A W D N  
L R D S K I F F B A N C D N N M  
F N A P W L N I S I E I O B O T  
U R I O T L I S H L E P W I A P

Find the following hidden words:

thistle, duck, goose, friends, friendship, love, win,  
games, competition, butterfly, meadow, pond,

## **First the Egg**

Laura Vaccaro Seeger  
Roaring Brook Press, 2007  
26 pages

**SUMMARY:** Using simple text and illustrations, shows how animals and objects change, including tadpoles to frogs and seeds to flowers, in a book with cutouts so that certain colors from the previous picture help create the next picture.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too*, Eric Carle  
*The Animal Babies Series*, Jennifer Schofield  
*Growing Like Me*, Anne F. Rockwell  
*Bently & Egg*, William Joyce  
*The Chicken or the Egg?*, Allan Fowler  
*An Egg is Quiet*, Dianna Hutts Aston  
*A Seed is Sleepy*, Dianna Hutts Aston  
*From Idea to Book*, Pam Marshall

### **WEBSITES:**

Science NetLinks, <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.cfm>. Here is a great lesson plan designed for K-2 where eggs can be hatched in the classroom and students can learn much about science observation and animal life.

Acorn Naturalists, <http://www.acornnaturalists.com/Teaching-about-Life-Cycles-C627.aspx>. This site provides information on animal and plant lifecycles and many other science related topics useful to teachers with lesson ideas, methods, teaching science through song and much more.

Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord's Making Book Monthly website, <http://www.makingbooks.com/subscribe.shtml>, offers a free monthly email newsletter packed with ideas for making books with children.

### **BOOKTALK:**

First the chicken, or first the egg? First the frog, or first the tadpole? First the flower, or first the seed? Just exactly how did everything get started in the first place? Here is a wonderful book to get you thinking about beginnings. When we look at all the fascinating things around us, it's only natural to wonder how it all came to be. Just like the things in this book, you too will grow and change into something amazing. So come along, open the cover and let loose your imagination as you ponder what fantastic creations come from the smallest beginnings.

**Prepared by:** Cerese Long

## The Giant of Seville: A “Tall” Tale Based on a True Story

Dan Andreasen

Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 2007

29 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Captain Martin Van Buren Bates is a real life “giant” who at 7 feet 11 ½ inches tall visits the quiet small town of Seville, Ohio, looking for a town big enough for him and his wife to call home.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Ganite Baby*, Lynne Bertrand

*Paul Bunyan*, Steven Kellogg

*The Bunyans*, Audrey Wood

*Swamp Angel*, Anne Isaacs

### **WEBSITES:**

[www.webinstituteforteachers.org](http://www.webinstituteforteachers.org)

[www.animatedtalltales.com](http://www.animatedtalltales.com)

[www.oll.state.oh.us](http://www.oll.state.oh.us)

**BOOKTALK:** How do you feel meeting new people? Do you ever worry what they might think about you? Now imagine how Captain Martin Van Buren Bates felt when he visited the sleepy little town of Seville, Ohio. Did I mention that Captain Bates was seven feet eleven and a half inches tall and that his stovepipe hat was as big around as a pickle barrel? From the minute he stepped off the train, the people of the town of Seville were fascinated by this real life giant. From the owner of the boarding house with the too small beds, to the ladies who cooked a tower of pancakes for his breakfast, Captain Bates discovers kindness and acceptance around every street corner. When he accidentally dances through the boardinghouse floor, Captain Bates wonders if he is “too big” for yet another town. To his happy surprise, he discovers that in his quest for a new home for himself and his equally tall wife, that in the small town of Seville, live some very big-hearted people.

### **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**

Social Studies— Locate Seville Ohio on a map of the US. Use the map scale to calculate the distance from your hometown to Seville, Ohio. Use the compass rose to discuss primary and secondary cardinal directions and what direction you would need to travel from your hometown to Seville, Ohio.

Language Arts—Elements of tall tales; metaphors; comparative and superlative endings (-er, -est) to compare by degree.

Math—Make a tape mark on the wall showing how tall Captain Martin Van Buren Bates was (7 feet 11 ½ inches tall). Measure heights of children and mark these heights on the wall with tape. Compare how much taller Captain Bates was than they are. Calculate the difference between Captain Bates height and the height of the tallest child or the adult in the room.

## The Giant of Seville

N M H U X H E I U R R J P E K  
G T K U O I T Z I D G U I C I  
K R M U R Z L Z S B K S C N N  
Y E S P P Y C E M P I W K A D  
O E D G U A V Q D B A J L T N  
B O A R D I N G H O U S E P E  
G M N X L S U C R I C E B E S  
H S C L O I H O A K H T A C S  
E E E S P Q U S N K K A R C H  
S T O V E P I P E I E B R A M  
Q S A W I N N H C V T S E O D  
N E I H A I E B D L E R L F G  
Y E L W A R C S R M Y N A K N  
A Q J R S G I A N T L V W M J  
M Z T T W T X X O E L G Y Z J

ACCEPTANCE

CIRCUS

HOUSE

MRSCRAWLEY

PICKLEBARREL

STOVEPIPE

BATES

DANCE

KINDNESS

OHIO

SEVEN

TRAIN

BOARDINGHOUSE

GIANT

MARTIN

PANCAKES

SEVILLE

Solution

Created by [Puzzlemaker](http://Puzzlemaker) at [DiscoveryEducation.com](http://DiscoveryEducation.com)



## **Grace for President**

Kelly DiPucchio

Hyperion Books for Children, 2008

40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election, where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Duck for President*, Doreen Cronin

*If I Were President*, Catherine Stier

*Madame President*, Lane Smith

*Max for President*, Jarrent Krosoczka

### **WEBSITES:**

Kelly DiPucchio <http://www.kellydipucchio.com/graceforpres.html>

Author's website, which includes a detailed biography, question and answer, and more.

Hyperion Books for Children [www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com)

HBC website includes all books published by the company along with useful materials for teachers and librarians.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Grace for President! Grace for President? When Mrs. Barrington rolls out a poster with portraits of the U.S. Presidents Grace asks: "Where are the girls?" After learning from the teacher that there has not been a female president in history Grace decides she will become the first woman president...of her grade. Her rival, Thomas Cobb, may be popular and athletic and feel he is the best MAN for the job, but Grace has other plans.

Grace for President is a fun story, with lively and nostalgic illustrations. The illustrations also show students of different ethnicities which bring out the various details of each phase of a campaign. The electoral process is explained in "kid" language by delivering lesson on electoral votes, polls, and the reason every vote counts. A continuous theme runs throughout the book with speech bubbles shaped like states and stars and stripes borders. This is a well-constructed book on elections which offers an inspiring example of how to choose our leaders. A timely title with a likable heroine.

Prepared by:

Joi Gilliam

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## **Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale**

Carmen Agra Deedy  
Peachtree Publishers, 2007  
32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

In this humorous retelling of a Cuban folktale, Martina the beautiful cockroach must choose a husband from all of the suitors that come calling. Despite the beautiful gifts from her family to help her, it is the shocking advice from her grandmother to spill coffee on each suitor's shoes that ultimately helps her find her perfect match.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Library Dragon*, Carmen Deedy

*The Last Dance*, Carmen Deedy

*Tales Our Abuelitas Told: A Hispanic Folktale Collection*, Isabel Campoy

*Abuela*, Arthur Dorros

*Saturday Sancocho*, Leyla Torres

*The Dog Who Loved the Moon*, Cristina Garcia

### **WEBSITES:**

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: <http://www.beautifulmartina.com/>

Carmen Agra Deedy: <http://carmendeedy.com/>

The Real Martina: [http://www.beautifulmartina.com/pdf/cockroach\\_info.pdf](http://www.beautifulmartina.com/pdf/cockroach_info.pdf)

The Barking Mouse: A Folktale from Cuba

<http://www.tolerance.org/storybooks/mouse/index.html>

Pitara Folktales for Kids: <http://www.pitara.com/talespin/folktales.asp>

### **BOOKTALK:**

Martina Josephina Catalina Cucaracha is a *beautiful* cockroach. It is time for her to marry and she is so beautiful that everyone wants to marry her – how can she possibly choose the right one? Should he be handsome? Rich? Famous? Her grandmother has some advice that Martina thinks is awful... her grandmother wants her to spill HOT COFFEE on her suitors' shoes and see what they do when she makes them mad. Martina doesn't think it will work – how is making people mad supposed to help her find the perfect husband?? Will Martina find love by listening to her grandmother? Read this funny Cuban folktale to find out.

Prepared by:

Amanda LeBlanc

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## **Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf**

Judy Sierra  
Alfred A. Knopf, c2007  
30 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

The Big Bad Wolf is now older and living in the Villain Villa Senior Center. He receives an invitation to a tea by the local children's librarian. His best friend warns him that he will have to mind his manners. To help him remember his manners, B. B. Wolf makes up a song. He remembers to say "please" and "thank you" at the appropriate times. He even gives a great big smile to a nervous Red Riding Hood, Three Little Pigs, and Gingerbread Boy. But he gets a little mixed-up about what to do when you burp. This hilarious read-aloud story is a gentle reminder for children still learning their manners.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*365 Manners Kids Should Know: Games, Activities, and Other Fun Ways to Help Children Learn Etiquette*, Sheryl Eberly

*Dude, That's Rude!: (Get Some Manners)*, Pamela Espeland and Elizabeth Verdick

*Stoo Hample's Book of Bad Manners*, Stoo Hample

*Big Bad Wolf is Good*, Simon Puttock

*Big Bad Wolf*, Claire Masurel

*The True Story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf*, Liam Farrell and Terry Myler

### **WEBSITES:**

Manners Theme, <http://stepbystepcc.com/manners2.html>

This website lists different games and activities that you can play with your students.

Child Fun: Manners, <http://www.childfun.com/modules.php>

This site lists ways that you can help teach manners to students.

### **BOOKTALK:**

The Big Bad Wolf is back! But now he's older and living in the Villain Villa Senior Citizens Center. As he sets off from his home to attend the local library's storybook tea, he sings a song to help him remember his manners: "Sip your tea and never slurp. Say 'excuse me,' if you burp. Smile and have a lot of fun, but don't go biting anyone!" And guess who else will be there? Little Red Riding Hood, the Three Little Pigs, and the Gingerbread Boy! Can B.B. Wolf convince them that he is now a polite wolf?

Prepared by:  
Kathy Kinard  
kkinard@aiken.k12.sc.us

## **Nic Bishop Frogs**

Nic Bishop  
Scholastic, Inc. 2008  
48 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This is THE book for an elementary school to have about frogs! Loaded with information about frogs from all over the world, the photos and facts will fascinate children in grades K – 3 and not a few adults. While the information is riveting, the photos really carry the book. They are a visual treat. The foldout jumping sequence is remarkable! But the facts are really absorbing, too. Did you know that frogs have no ribs and that almost half their 159 bones are in their feet? Besides anatomy, the reader learns about preferred habitats, how long frogs and toads live, dining habits, locomotion, poisonousness (this always grabs the kids!), life cycle, survival tactics and their voices. The information flows quite well and can be accessed via an index. The book concludes with a brief essay by Nic in which he expresses his joy in photographing these fantastic creatures all around the world.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Nic Bishop Spiders*, Nic Bishop

*Red-Eyed Tree Frog*, Joy Cowley (illustrated with Nic Bishop photos)

*All About Frogs*, Jim Arnosky

### **WEBSITES:**

Nic Bishop's Website. <http://www.nicbishop.com/>

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frog> Say what you will about Wikipedia, they've got some pretty good articles when it concerns animals.

Exploratorium in San Francisco: <http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/>

<http://seagrant.wisc.edu/frogs/> more "hands-on"

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/frogs/> Add frog sounds for color

<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Themes/frogs/> help with frog-related ideas

If you're interested in resources for teaching photography to your students, try these:

<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/>

<http://www.youthlearn.org/learning/activities/multimedia/photo1.asp>

<http://homeschooling.gomilpitas.com/explore/photography.htm>

[http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&id=ryCQgv-ZdQkC&dq=photography+for+children&printsec=frontcover&source=bll&ots=dY9Z4ta0Fh&sig=Qp7tNRWtC75UWxzfA9uSjNOZyLw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=11&ct=result#PPP1,M1](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&id=ryCQgv-ZdQkC&dq=photography+for+children&printsec=frontcover&source=bll&ots=dY9Z4ta0Fh&sig=Qp7tNRWtC75UWxzfA9uSjNOZyLw&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=11&ct=result#PPP1,M1)

[ZdQkC&dq=photography+for+children&printsec=frontcover&source=bll&ots=dY9Z4ta0Fh&sig=Qp7tNRWtC75UWxzfA9uSjNOZyLw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=11&ct=result#PPP1,M1](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&id=ryCQgv-ZdQkC&dq=photography+for+children&printsec=frontcover&source=bll&ots=dY9Z4ta0Fh&sig=Qp7tNRWtC75UWxzfA9uSjNOZyLw&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=11&ct=result#PPP1,M1)

A cool project idea is at: <http://globalvoicesonline.org/2008/10/28/venezuela-presenting-ancla2-and-how-children-see-their-venezuela/>

## **BOOKTALK:**

What do you think of when you hear the word “frog”? Something small, green, web-footed and slimy, right? Well, think again. If you take a look through *Nic Bishop Frogs*, you’ll see absolutely stunning photographs of blue frogs, red frogs, and a frog you can see through. You’ll see tadpoles and polliwogs, gliding frogs and jumping frogs. Even a toad with horns on its head! There is never a dull moment in this book as the lavish photographs that illustrate it draw even the most reluctant amphibian-phobe in! Mr. Bishop’s photos make frogs *beautiful*, which is something I never thought I’d say. He explains his painstaking methods in the last pages of the book. Perhaps you’ll be inspired to become a photographer or a biologist after a close encounter with this book.

Prepared by:

Betsy Russell

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## **On Meadowview Street**

Henry Cole  
Harper Collins, 2007  
32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

When Caroline and her parents move to a new house in a sterile new neighborhood of identical houses, they create a front yard wildlife habitat that gives them beauty, joy, and wildlife at their doorstep. It also leads their neighbors from curiosity to copying and makes their street, Meadowview, live up to its name.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Whose Garden is It?*, Mary Ann Hoberman

*Snail's Spell*, Joanne Ryder

*Each Living Thing*, Joanne Ryder

*The Gardener*, Sarah Steward

### **WEBSITES:**

- Author/illustrator Henry Cole's website  
<http://www.henrycole.net/main.php>  
Games, artwork, encouragement for young artists, and a mailbox for students to send a note to Mr. Cole
- Henry Cole by his publisher, Harper Collins  
[http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/11941/Henry\\_Cole/index.aspx](http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/11941/Henry_Cole/index.aspx)  
Henry Cole's life and his beginnings as an artist and author
- Kids Ecology Corps  
<http://www.kidsecologycorps.org/index.html>  
Inspiration and practical ideas to help young people make environmental action part of their everyday lives
- Outside in Nature, National Wildlife Federation  
<http://www.nwf.org/outside/>  
Resources for creating certified backyard and schoolyard wildlife habitats
- The National Gardening Association's Kids Gardening Page  
<http://www.kidsgardening.com/>  
Information for teachers and parents on gardening projects to do with children

### **BOOKTALK:**

What if you were moving to a new house on a street with a beautiful name like Meadowview and when you got there you discovered that there wasn't a meadow or even a view but just lots of houses that all looked alike? When Caroline notices one lonely wildflower growing in the grass her dad is about to cut, she saves it from his mower. One flower becomes two and then more and before you know it, she's talked her parents into helping her plant trees, build birdhouses and dig a pond. Could you use your eyes and imagination and your muscles to make your house a home for all kinds of creatures like

turtles and hummingbirds and dragonflies and maybe even a little green snake? Read On Meadowview Street and find out how.

Prepared by:

Serena DuBose

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This could be acted out by students while being read aloud.

### **This is the Meadow that Caroline Made**

This is the meadow that Caroline made.

This is the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

These are the sticks and string that saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

This is mower that Dad doesn't need to cut grass fenced by sticks and by string  
That saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

This is the tree that made shade for the grass fenced by sticks and by string  
That saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

This is the wren that came to the tree  
That made shade for the grass fenced by sticks and by string  
That saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

This is the birdhouse made for the wren  
That came to the tree  
That made shade for the grass fenced by sticks and by string  
That saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

This is pond dug shallow and large under the birdhouse made for the wren  
That came to the tree  
That made shade for the grass fenced by sticks and by string  
That saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

These are the children who came to play around the pond dug shallow and large under the  
birdhouse made for the wren  
That came to the tree  
That made shade for the grass fenced by sticks and by string  
That saved the flower that didn't get mowed  
That grew in the meadow that Caroline made.

## **Papa and the Pioneer Quilt**

Jean Van Leeuwen

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2007

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Rebecca's papa has wandering feet. He is following his dream and taking the family west on the Oregon Trail, across prairies, rivers, and mountains. Along the way, Rebecca begins collecting pieces of cloth. In their new home, Mama will help her use these scraps to sew a quilt that will become a keepsake of their amazing, courageous journey.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*A Pioneer ABC*, Mary Alice Downie

*Colonial America*, Donald M. Silver

*I Have Heard of a Land*, Joyce Carol Thomas

*Daily Life in a Covered Wagon*, Paul Erickson

*Colonial Kids: An Activity Guide to life in the New World*, Laurie Carlson

*A Pioneer Sampler: Daily Life of a Pioneer Family*, Barbara Greenwood

*The Promise Quilt*, Candice Ransom

*The Name Quilt*, Phyllis Root

*The Kindness Quilt*, Elizabeth Wallace

*The Keeping Quilt*, Patricia Polacco

### **WEBSITES:**

Colonial America: Activity Ideas in the Classroom

(<http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Class/est572/joreste/>) This website is a place for teachers to find great activities for incorporating the Colonial American theme into their daily lesson plans.

Quilts (<http://www.pbs.org/americaquilts/classroom/index.html>) Teachers from around the country, working with students from pre-school through college, share how they have used quilts in their classrooms in this website.

Stitch A Quilt: Information on How Quilts Are Made

(<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jp/quilt>) This website provides historical information.

BlockCentral.com (<http://blockcentral.com/coloringbook.shtml>) This website provides many patterns of quilts to color.

## **BOOKTALK:**

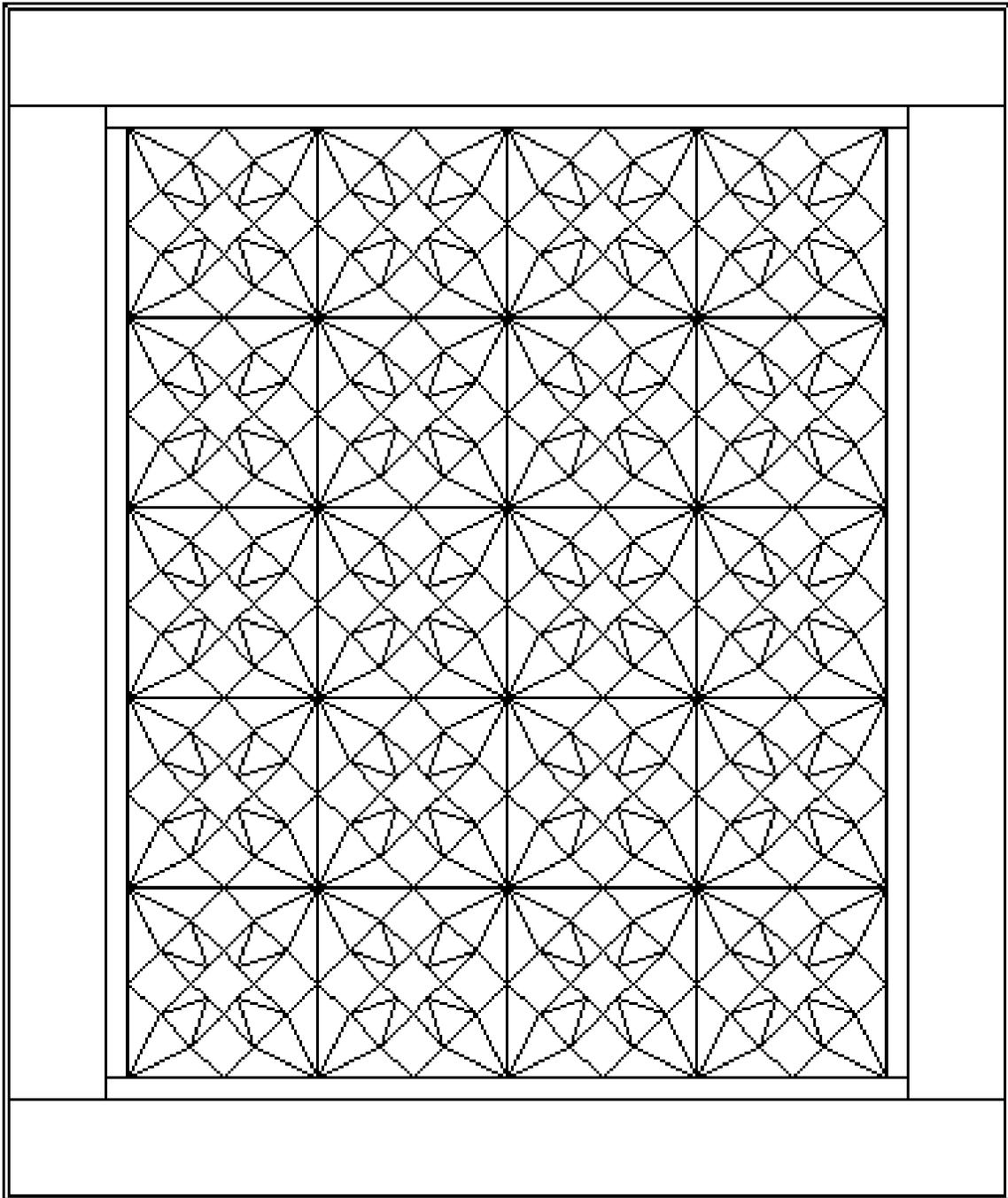
Have you ever been on a really, really long road trip? Have you ever traveled to a strange and new place? Have you ever ridden in a covered wagon? Well, in this book set in early America, the main character, Rebecca, does just that. Rebecca travels in a covered wagon with her mama and papa and her little brothers and sister all the way across the country to the state of Oregon. Rebecca's papa has what you might call wandering feet. He always wants to wander or move, and as a result the family leaves the safety of their home in hopes of settling new land out west. They brave freezing temperatures, cross wide prairies, steep mountains, and rushing rivers. Along their dangerous journey, Rebecca gets the idea to collect pieces of scrap material to help her remember the trip, the good parts and the bad! She saves a piece of her father's torn shirt after he almost drowns. A new friend she meets along the way leaves her a sunbonnet hat. She keeps a piece of her brother's tattered pants after he fell off the wagon and was nearly run over. Rebecca collects and collects and collects as she knows she is going to do something special with these treasures. She plans to sew a quilt to become a keepsake of her family's amazing and courageous journey. Read this book and see what it was really like for the early pioneers as they blazed the trails across the frontier to settle the Wild, Wild West.

Prepared by:

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Quilt Coloring Sheet



Quilt Bingo:

Choose numbers under the word Q-U-I-L-T

Have students bring in something old and something new for the prizes.

## **Strong Man: The Story of Charles Atlas**

Meghan McCarthy  
Alfred A. Knopf, 2007  
32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This cartoon-like biography follows the life of Charles Atlas from skinny kid to “The World’s Most Perfectly Developed Man.” Along the way, readers are encouraged to believe in themselves and stay fit.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein

*Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World’s Fastest Woman* by Kathleen Krull

*Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman* by Nikki Grimes

*Mighty Jackie: The Strike-out Queen* by Marissa Moss

*Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin’ Cowboy* by Andrea D. Pinkney

### **WEBSITES:**

[http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/atlas\\_bibliography.html](http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/atlas_bibliography.html) - Charles Atlas bibliography

[http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/strongman\\_audio\\_one.html](http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/strongman_audio_one.html) - Strong Man read by the author

<http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/homepage.htm> - Meghan McCarthy’s website

She says a Strong Man activity page is coming.

<http://www.charlesatlas.com> - all about the Charles Atlas Full Course

<http://listverse.com/history/10-amazing-strongman-feats-of-the-past/> - 10 Amazing Strongman Feats of the Past

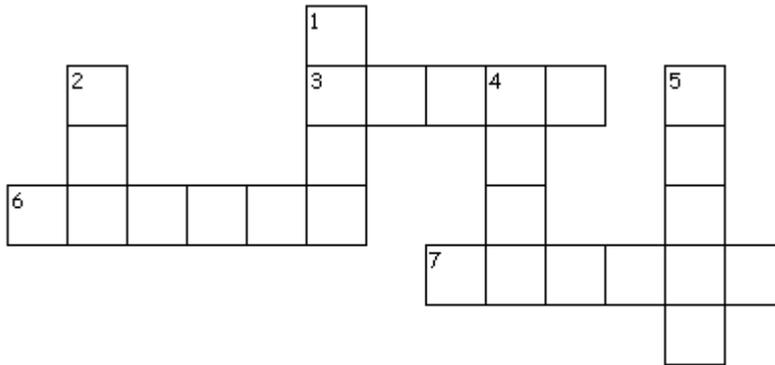
<http://oneplacesc.org> - Visit OnePlaceSC to search for educational videos on good health through exercise and fitness (for example: All Fit Workout with Slim Goodbody).

### **BOOKTALK:**

Have you ever been picked on by a bully? Do you wish you were a lot stronger than you are now? In Strong Man: The Story of Charles Atlas skinny Angelo is tired of being bullied and picked on, so when he goes on a school trip to a museum and sees a statue of Hercules, he wonders “Could I have big muscles and be strong like that?” Read this true story to find out how Angelo worked so hard at building his muscles that he became known as “The World’s Most Perfectly Developed Man.”

Prepared by:  
Miriam Ash-Jones

# Strong Man



## Across

3. country Angelo came from as a boy
6. what Angelo saw in the museum
7. real name of Charles Atlas

## Down

1. Atlas said "Take charge of your \_\_\_\_."
2. You should exercise to be \_\_\_\_.
4. animal Angelo watched in the zoo
5. Atlas lay on a bed of \_\_\_\_.

## **26 Princesses**

Dave Horowitz

G.P. Putnam and Sons, 2008

32 pgs.

### **SUMMARY:**

A princess book and ABC book all rolled into one! Meet the 26 princesses all vying for Prince Frog's attention at the ball in alphabetical order of course. Kindergarteners and older children will enjoy the short memorable rhymes and illustrations that accompany each princess.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY...**

*SuperHero ABC*, Bob Mcleod

*Hungry Monster ABC : an alphabet book*, Susan Heyboer O'Keefe

*Me, me! ABC*, Harriet Ziefert

*An African Princess*, Lyra Edmonds

*Arthur's Tractor : a fairy tale with mechanical parts*, Pippa Goodart

### **WEBSITES:**

Dave Horowitz Website, <http://www.horowitzdave.com/>

Alphabet Action site and printables, <http://www.learningplanet.com/act/fl/aact/index.asp>

<http://www.learningplanet.com/parents/alphabet/>

Alphabet Games, <http://www.playkidsgames.com/alphabetGames.html>

### **BOOKTALK:**

What do you get when you have twenty-six princesses all vying for the attention of one prince? Another Cinderella story? Nope. A royal brawl? No, that's not it either. What if I tell you that the prince is actually a frog? Still no clue? Well, what you get is a delightfully fun rhyming book for students young and old. Princess Alice who is first to the palace, Princess Betty who's still getting ready, Princess Criss who's stealing a kiss and 23 more royal pains in the alphabet presented in alphabetical order of course!

Your students will squeal with excitement as they are introduced to each princess through hilarious portraits and catchy rhymes. This story is a must for your next read aloud.

Prepared by:

Amy Bedenbaugh

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

We just read ***Twenty-Six Princesses*** by Dave Horowitz. The prince would like to thank each princess for her visit by sending them a gift. He wants each gift to begin with the first letter in the princess' name. Please draw a picture of the gift you think Prince Frog should send in the box. If you know how to spell the name of the object you may write it on the line provided.

Princess Alice	
Princess Betty	
Princess Criss	
Princess Dot	
Princess Elle	
Princess Flo	

Princess Grace	
Princess Heather	
Princess Isabella	
Princess Jane	
Princess Kay	
Princess Lori	
Princess Mandy	
Princess Nell	

Princess Olga	
Princess Pearl	
Princess Quinn	
Princess Ruth	
Princess Sue	
Princess Tess	
Princess Unice	
Princess Vikki	

Princess Winnie	
Princess Xena	
Princess Yvette	
Princess Zaire	

Now write all 26 letters of the alphabet on the lines below.

\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_'  
\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_'  
\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_'

## **Wolf's Coming**

Joe Kulka

Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 2007

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

All of the animals in the forest go into hiding because the wolf is coming, but why they are hiding is the big surprise.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Rope*, Joe Kulka

*Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf*, Judy Sierra

*Big Bad Wolves at School*, Stephen Krensky

*What's the Time, Grandma Wolf?*, Ken Brown

*Bad Boys*, Margie Palatini

*Whooo's There?*, Mary Serfozo

*Suddenly!*, Colin McNaughton

*Birthday Surprises*, Johanna Hurwitz

### **WEBSITES:**

Joe Kulka, <http://www.joekulka.com/>

This is the author's home page. Find out information about him and other books that he has written and illustrated and contact information.

Wolves of the World, <http://www.cosmosmith.com/wolfpage.html>

Use this site to discover information and facts about wolves.

Wolves, <http://42explore.com/wolves.htm>

This site includes information, other links, and activities to explore wolves.

### **BOOKTALK:**

*Are you afraid of wolves? You should be because wolves can be very scary.*

A big shadowy figure with fangs, glowing eyes, and a red necktie is climbing the hill, getting close and closer still. "Wolf's coming!" A distant howl echoes through the forest, and news spreads quickly that the wolf is indeed coming. As darkness falls, the wolf gets closer and closer, animals scurry out of sight as fast as they can and whisper, "He's coming, he's coming!" "Moonlight shines on his fangs, His belly growls with hunger pangs." The animals dash inside pig's house where they pull the shades and hide. Soon the wolf's glowing eyes are peeking through the window of the house, and then suddenly the front door creaks open... Read this deliciously suspenseful story to find out what happens. You may be the one in for a big surprise!

Prepared by:

Susan Cathey

scathey@lexington1.net

Wolf's Coming! By Joe Kulka

Play "Farmer in the Dell" type game by using the animals in the story. Have the students get in a circle with the wolf in the middle. Pick someone to be each of the characters the wolf, crow, rabbit, raccoon, and pig until all students have a turn.

Students will sing:

The wolf is on his way,  
The wolf is on his way,  
Tell the others and run away,  
The wolf is on his way!

While singing, the wolf runs around the circle and touches a student to be the crow. The wolf changes places in the circle with the crow and the students sing while the crow touches someone to be the rabbit and so on.

The crow tells rabbit  
The crow tells rabbit  
Hop, hop and run away  
The wolf is on his way!

The rabbit tells raccoon  
The rabbit tells raccoon  
Run, run and run away  
The wolf is on his way!

The raccoon tells pig  
The raccoon tells pig  
Oink, oink and run away  
The wolf is on his way!

The front door makes a creak,  
Inside, wolf takes a peek.  
Tightly, tightly close your eyes  
And all yell, "Surprise!"

**Woolbur**  
Leslie Helakoski  
HarperCollins, 2008  
32 pages

**SUMMARY:**

Woolbur, a young sheep who thinks differently than the others, worries his mother and father with his free-spiritedness, but his grandfather thinks he will be fine.

**IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK TRY...**

*A Bad Case of Stripes*, David Shannon

*Tacky the Penguin*, Helen Lester

*Mule School*, Julia Rawlinson

*Some Dogs Do*, Jez Alborough

*Incredible Me*, Kathi Appelt

*You're Different and That's Super*, Carson Kressley

*Sheep in Wolf's Clothing*, Helen Lester

*Weaving the Rainbow*, George Ella Lyon

*From Sheep to Sweater*, Robin Nelson

**WEBSITES:**

Sheep 101, <http://www.sheep101.info/>

A website to teach students, teachers, 4-H and FFA members, beginning shepherds, and the public about sheep and shepherding.

Leslie Helakoski, <http://www.helakoskibooks.com/>

The author's official website has information on her books, art, biography, and activities.

Lee Harper, <http://www.leeharperart.com/Welcome.html>

First-time illustrator Lee Harper's official website tells of his excitement over the success of Woolbur.

**BOOKTALK:**

Woolbur is not like other sheep. He wants to run with the dogs, doesn't want to have his wool sheared, experiments with various wool styles, and dyes himself a deep blue.

"Don't worry!" says Grandpaa when Maa and Paa fret that Woolbur is different. Finally his parents reach the end of their patience and insist that he act just like the rest of the flock. Woolbur thinks and thinks about this and comes up with his own rebel solution.

Leave it to Woolbur to find a new way to step ahead of the herd. Spunky, funky, and refreshingly distinct, Woolbur by Leslie Helakoski will strike a chord with anyone who's ever felt different. And that's all of us!

Prepared by:

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