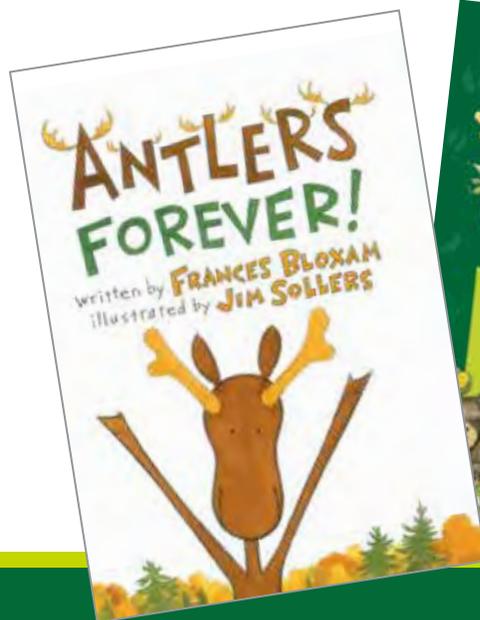


RAISING READERS

STORY HOUR KIT

A moose antler activity to be used with a read aloud of **Antlers Forever** by Frances Bloxam and illustrated by Jim Sollers (Down East Books) featured in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.





ABOUT RAISING READERS

It's a fact that reading to young children makes them smarter, healthier, and better prepared for life. It is this simple truth that led Maine's Libra Foundation to create **Raising Readers**, a statewide program that gives books—free of charge—to all Maine children between the ages of birth and five at well-child healthcare visits.

Through the simple act of placing books in children's hands, **Raising Readers** reinforces the powerful understanding that literacy begins well before children enter kindergarten. By integrating books into birth and primary care, the program also supports the well-documented link between health and literacy.

More info:

www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/

ABOUT THE KIT

This Story Hour Kit was created to celebrate the publication of Raising Readers' tenth and last anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.



This anthology of five stories by Maine authors and illustrators published by Down East Books will be given to all Maine libraries and distributed statewide to five-year-olds at their well-child healthcare visit for a year. The kit also serves as a celebration of Raising Readers' fifteenth anniversary and its message about supporting the importance of reading aloud to children from birth.

Raising Readers encourages partnering with one of your community's doctors or other healthcare providers on a story hour featuring one of the books in this year's anthology as a way to help us celebrate our program's anniversary and the importance of early literacy. They could talk about Raising Readers and read the featured book aloud. We have included tips for involving a doctor or healthcare provider in a story hour at the end of this kit; however, doing so is not expected or required—just have fun using this kit to create a story hour that you know your community would appreciate and enjoy!

The activity in this kit (**found on page 9**) invites families to make moose antlers.

Raising Readers was saddened by the loss of author Frances Bloxam while we were producing this anthology. Frances was a dedicated teacher who held wonderful read-alouds in Maine schools and libraries during her retirement. If you turn to the final pages of **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** you can read our heartfelt tribute to her. Thank you for carrying on her tradition of fantastic read-alouds with Maine children!

ABOUT THE BOOK

Antlers Forever

By Frances Bloxam

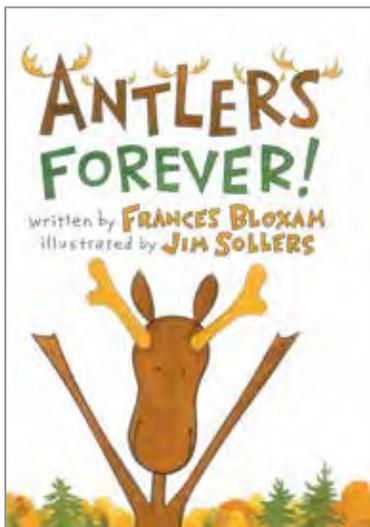
Illustrated by Jim Sollers

Published by Down East Books

ISBN-13: 9780892725502

Age range: 3 - 8 Years

Orville is a likable young moose who tries very hard to do everything right, especially when taking care of his handsome pair of antlers. They are his pride and joy. Despite all his care, he wakes up one day to find out that they are becoming loose!



The book can be found at your library and within the anthology,

**Raising Readers:
A Medley of Maine
Children's Stories**
(Down East Books).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Frances Bloxam

Imagine having a librarian for a mother - that was Frances Bloxam! As a young girl, Frances carried home as many books as she could from the library in Tremont, Illinois where her mother worked. Because her mother read her nursery rhymes like "The

Owl and the Pussycat" from an early age, Frances especially liked rhyming books. Rhyming became one of her favorite activities, and for the rest of her life Frances loved to match words that sounded alike.

Just as her mother read to her, Frances read to her own children and to the many children that became a part of her preschool classroom. Frances said, "I love to read to children above all things—it's my favorite thing to do, because they laugh, they answer questions, and they come up with some of the darnedest answers." From all the time she spent reading aloud to children, she learned what kinds of stories were "listenable, fun, and language-enriching."

One day when her husband, Dick, was talking about a moose hunt with his friends, Frances became intrigued by the habits of Maine's most iconic animal and by the difficulty of finding words that rhymed with "moose." A story started to come to her about a young moose trying to figure out who he was and what he would become. Details about the story would come to her so early in the morning that the only light she dared to turn on was in the bathroom. She began to keep a notebook in the bathroom to work on her story!

A bathroom may seem like a funny place to write, but it worked for Frances. She liked to write in notebooks because she was often traveling the world and across the U.S. on motorcycles. Frances knew that it was a good idea to capture an idea or a rhyme the minute it comes to you - no matter where you are! Follow her lead and always have a notebook nearby.

Moose Facts



When do moose grow and shed their antlers?

From April to August, bull moose (males) grow big antlers. In the winter, moose shed their antlers so they can survive the harsh, cold weather more easily. The antlers grow back again the following spring. Moose usually grow their largest set of antlers with the most number of prongs when they are 5 years old. It is very important for moose to get plenty of nutritious food so their antlers can grow back big and strong every year - just like it's important for you to eat healthy so you can grow up big and strong!

How big are a moose's antlers?

On a healthy older moose that gets plenty of food, antlers can be as large as 7 feet across and weigh as much as 35 to 45 pounds. That means the antlers are probably longer than your arms are when they're stretched out all the way *and* that they may weigh more than you do! The largest moose antler ever found weighed 79 pounds!

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



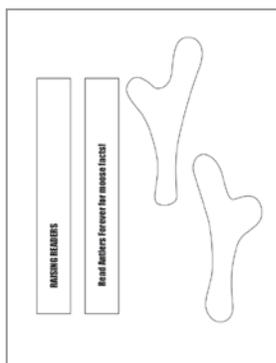
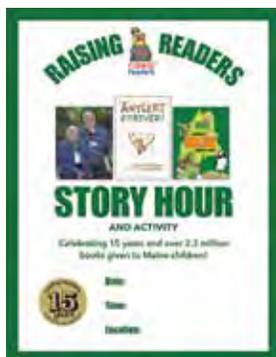
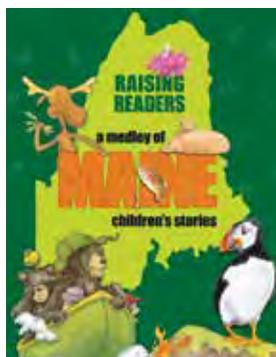
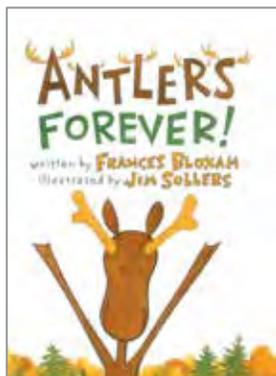
Jim Sollers

Artist and illustrator Jim Sollers would tell you that you can also draw the things you see or imagine just like you can write about them. After many years illustrating book covers and magazine articles, Jim was asked to illustrate **Antlers Forever**, the story Bloxam wrote on those early mornings. Jim quickly decided that the story was "one of the most satisfying art assignments" he had ever worked on.

Jim and Frances also worked together to tell the stories of Maine animals in **Little Tom Turkey** and **Beau Beaver Goes to Town**. Because of Frances and Jim, Maine children know much more about the animals in the Maine woods and their own backyards.



PREPARING FOR THE STORY HOUR



WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- 1 Locate a copy of the anthology **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (donated to Maine libraries by Raising Readers) or **Antlers Forever** by Frances Bloxam and illustrated by Jim Sollers (Down East Books).
- 2 Copy and display the Story Hour Poster (**found on page 12**) in this kit, hand it out in your community, post it on social media, and include it in a display. List the event in newsletters and online calendars with copy such as:

Join us for a Raising Readers Story Hour to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the program that has given over two million books to Maine children at their well-child visits! *(Use next sentence if you partner with a doctor or healthcare provider on this story hour).* _____ (name) will be joining us to tell us more about the program and why reading aloud to children from birth is so important. Together we will be reading *Antlers Forever* by Frances Bloxam and illustrated by Jim Sollers (Down East Books) and making moose antlers!

- 3 Consider a display of Frances Bloxam and Jim Sollers books or other books about Maine wildlife to inspire children to borrow books with themes similar to those in **Antlers Forever**.
- 4 Locate one-inch brass fasteners (2 for each anticipated participant).
- 5 Look at the **"Antlers Forever"** activity sheet (**found on page 9**) to learn how participants can make moveable antlers like Orville's.



WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE WEEK OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- 1 Print out the **Antlers Forever** sheet (**found on page 9**) in this kit on heavy paper if possible (1 sheet for each anticipated participant).
- 2 Consider whether you want to pre-cut the antler pieces.
- 3 Prepare one set of antlers to show participants.
- 4 Remind everyone in your network about the upcoming Raising Readers Story Hour event.
- 5 Gather child-safe scissors, crayons, and clear tape (for all to share).

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO THE DAY OF THE EVENT

Getting Ready

- Place **Antlers Forever** activity sheets (or pre-cut antler pieces), crayons, scissors, brass fasteners, and tape on the craft table for all to share.

Read Aloud & Activity

- Share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Raising Readers Talking Points (**found on page 8**). If you have a guest doctor or healthcare provider, introduce him or her and have them share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Talking Points; at the end of the story hour (before crafting), you can ask families if they have any questions about the program for the guest doctor or healthcare provider.

READ ALOUD ACTION PROMPTS

- Spread 2, Page 110: Can you “boo hoo hoo hook” like Orville?
 - Spread 2, Page 111: Let’s all think like Orville. (Put your fist on your chin and say, “hmmm...”)
 - Spread 3, Page 113: Can you pick beezels and chew, chew, chew...?
 - Spread 4, Page 114: Can you rub your moose belly full of beezels?
 - Spread 5, Page 116: Can you blink your owl eyes? (Make circles with your hands in front of your eyes. Open and close the circle.)
 - Spread 8, Page 123: Poor Orville! Can you pretend to cry with him?
 - Spread 9, Page 124: Can you sit up tall like a moose large and broad? Show us your antlers! (Place your wrists on your temples and splay fingers).
 - Spread 12, Page 130: Can you wave goodbye to Orville?
- Explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children’s Stories** is the anthology being given to Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If you are reading the stand-alone **Antlers Forever**, explain that the book is part of the anthology and show participants a copy of the anthology if possible.
 - Read **Antlers Forever** with as many read aloud action prompts as you want to include (see sidebar to the left).
 - Show families that there are a lot of interesting facts about moose and their antlers at the back of the anthology (if using it) or in the back of the book (if using the stand-alone **Antlers Forever**).
 - Invite families to the craft table to make moose antlers; demonstrate how the antlers come together and show your “final product” as an example.



TALKING POINTS FOR RAISING READERS STORY HOURS

Celebrating 15 Years of Books for Maine's Youngest Children

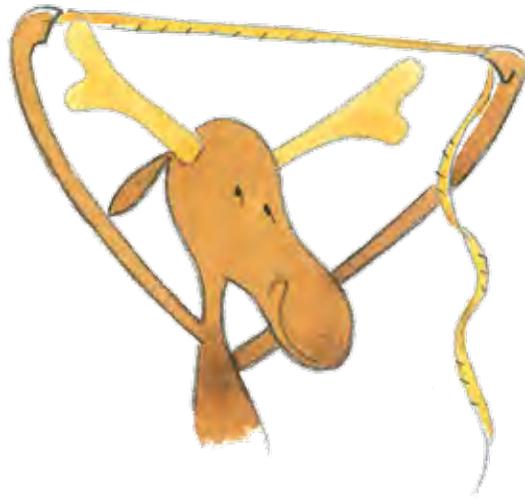
- Studies have shown that reading to young children - even for just 20 minutes a day - helps make them smarter, healthier, and more successful later in life.
- Knowing that literacy begins well before kindergarten, the Libra Foundation created the Raising Readers program in 2000 as a way to give books - for free - to *all* Maine children from birth through age five.
- Books are given to families at well-child visits and after birth, which helps reinforce the connection between health and literacy.
- All Maine hospitals and healthcare practices that see children participate in the program to ensure that every child in all 16 counties receives a collection of free high-quality, age-appropriate books before age five.
- The program is a collaboration between MaineHealth and EMHS, the two largest health systems in the state.
- Raising Readers is one-of-a-kind; it's the only statewide early literacy program in the United States.
- Now in its 15th year, Raising Readers has reached over 228,000 individual children and given out more than 2.3 million books.

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL DOCTOR OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If you decide to partner with a with a local doctor or healthcare provider for this Raising Readers Story Hour, the following are specific steps you might want to follow:

ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- Contact a healthcare practice that participates in Raising Readers. Visit the Raising Readers website (www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/participating_sites/) to locate a practice near you. All Maine and other healthcare providers who see children for well child care participate in the program, so you can always ask some of your regular family visitors for suggestions on who to contact.
- Contact the selected practice and ask for the "Practice Manager." Explain that you would like to hold a story hour celebrating Raising Readers' 15th anniversary and ask if one of the doctors or other healthcare providers would like to participate by reading the story and talking about Raising Readers. Let the Practice Manager know that you will have talking points on Raising Readers available in advance, and that you would like the doctor or other healthcare provider to do a read-aloud.
- Once a doctor has agreed to participate, share with him or her the Raising Readers Talking Points (see sidebar at left) and An Event Overview for Local Doctors or Other Healthcare Providers (**found on page 11**) to help facilitate his or her participation. Encourage the doctor or other healthcare provider to come to the event dressed in a white coat and stethoscope - this goes a long way to identifying his or her job in the eyes of a child. Ask how you should introduce him or her.



MOOSE ANTLER ACTIVITY

Orville the moose has discovered that his antlers are loose!
Would you like to make a set of antlers for your head?
Would you like your antlers to
stick out in crazy directions like Orville's?

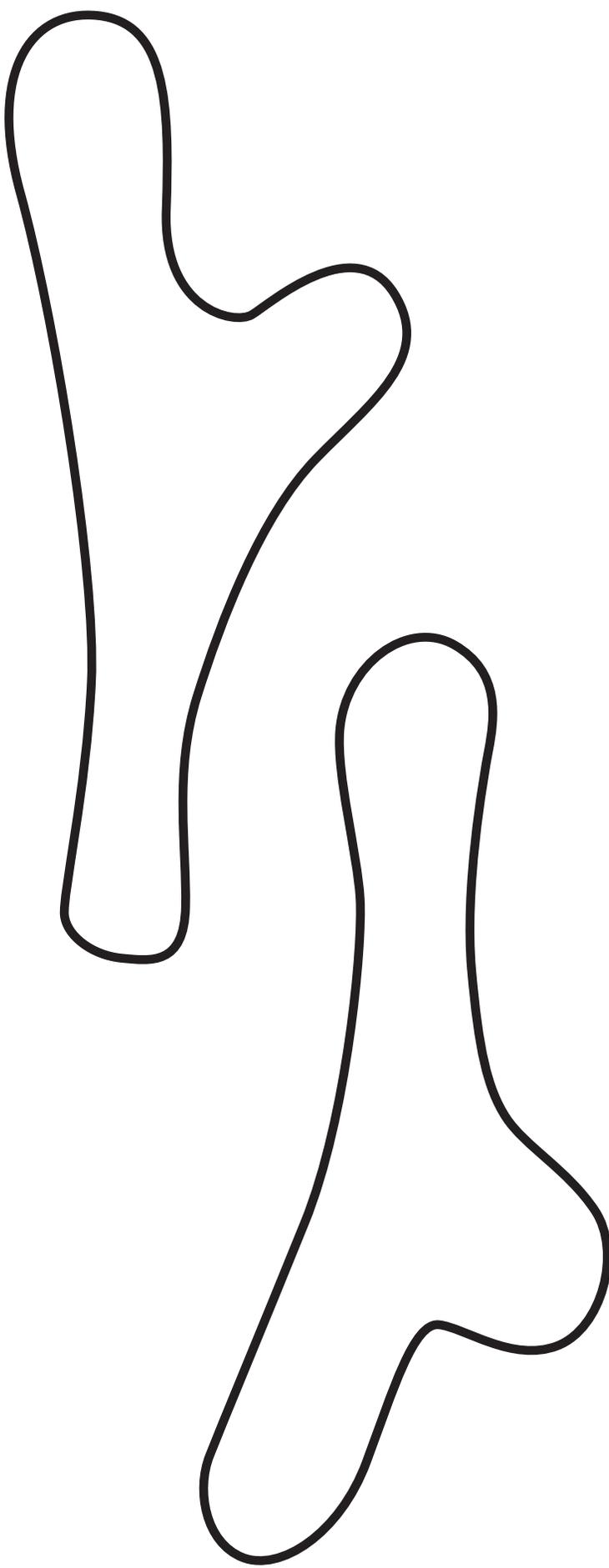
Color the strips of paper and the paper antlers any color you choose. If you want to look like Orville, use the colors that illustrator Jim Sollers chose for moose fur and antlers in his illustrations in **Antlers Forever**.

Directions for Adults:

- Cut out the antler pieces and two paper strips from the activity sheet (if needed).
- Attach the two strips of paper with tape to make a circle that fits around a child's head at the forehead level (try measuring his or her forehead with the strips of paper before you tape them).
- Poke a brass fastener through the bottom of the antler and then through the paper "headband".
- Open the fastener's brackets on the outside.
- Repeat with the other antler.

RAISING READERS

Read Antlers Forever for moose facts!



RAISING READERS STORY HOUR:

An Event Overview for Local Doctors and Other Healthcare Providers

Date:

Time:

Location:

Thank you for considering a visit to our library to promote Raising Readers to our families and to celebrate Raising Readers' 15th anniversary! Here is an outline of what will happen at the event:

The Book

The featured book at our event will be **Antlers Forever** by Frances Bloxam and illustrated by Jim Sollers (Down East Books), which is in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**. This anthology is the upcoming selection for five-year-olds. Let Raising Readers know if you need a copy to review.

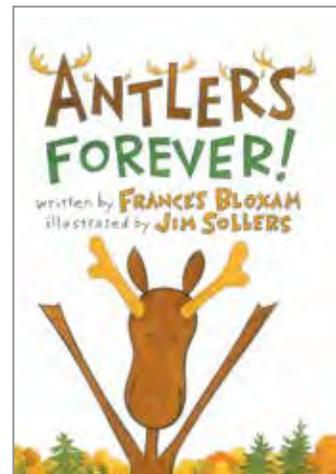
Preparation

- Look over the Raising Readers Talking Points (attached) and prepare to talk for five minutes or less about why you recommend reading aloud to children every day from birth.
- Get familiar with the book, **Antlers Forever** by Frances Bloxam and illustrated by Jim Sollers (Down East Books). Let me know if you would like to read it aloud or whether you prefer that I do so.
- Think about what you might wear to the event that makes families "see" you as a doctor. Raising Readers tells us that wearing a stethoscope, for example, makes you instantly recognizable to families.
- Send me a short bio that will help me introduce you.

The Event

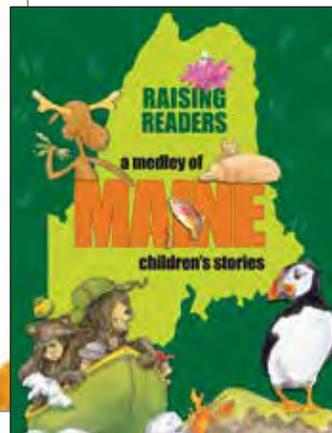
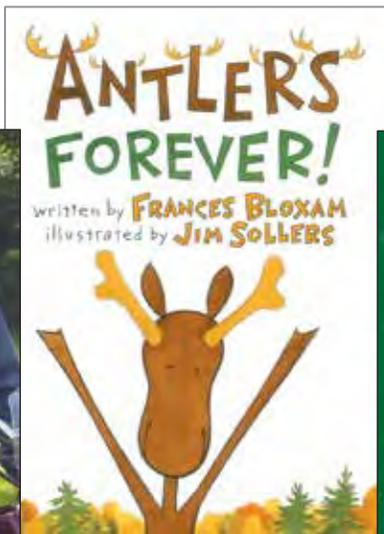
This is what we have planned for the event:

- There will be a craft table laid out with Antlers Forever Sheets, crayons, scissors, brass fasteners, and tape for an activity after the read aloud..
- I will introduce you and you will give your own rendition of the Raising Readers Talking Points.
- I will explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology that is being given to all Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If we are reading the stand-alone **Antlers Forever**, I will explain that the book is part of the anthology and show the anthology.
- You or I will read **Antlers Forever** with as many read-aloud action prompts as we can!
- I will invite parents to ask you and library staff about Raising Readers and reading aloud to children.
- I will prompt the craft activity.



Thank you so much for participating with our library as we celebrate Raising Readers' 15th Anniversary!

RAISING READERS



STORY HOUR AND ACTIVITY

Celebrating 15 years and over 2.3 million
books given to Maine children!



Date:

Time:

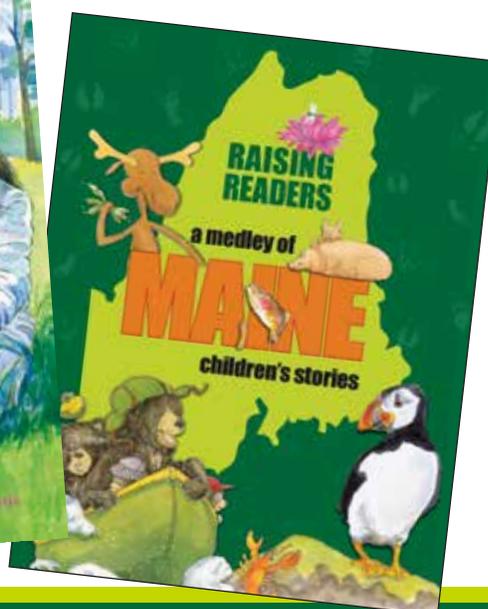
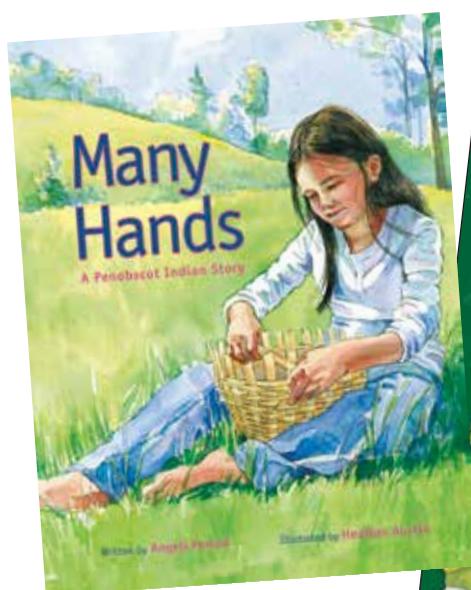
Location:



RAISING READERS

STORY HOUR KIT

A simple weaving and Penobscot language activity to be used with a read aloud of **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story** by Angeli Perrow and illustrated by Heather Austin (Down East Books) or featured in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.





ABOUT RAISING READERS

It's a fact that reading to young children makes them smarter, healthier, and better prepared for life. It is this simple truth that led Maine's Libra Foundation to create **Raising Readers**, a statewide program that gives books—free of charge—to all Maine children between the ages of birth and five at well-child healthcare visits.

Through the simple act of placing books in children's hands, **Raising Readers** reinforces the powerful understanding that literacy begins well before children enter kindergarten. By integrating books into birth and primary care, the program also supports the well-documented link between health and literacy.

More info:

www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/

ABOUT THE KIT

This Story Hour Kit was created to celebrate the publication of Raising Readers' tenth and last anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.



This anthology of five stories by Maine authors and illustrators published by Down East Books will be given to all Maine libraries and distributed statewide to five-year-olds at their well-child healthcare visit for a year. The kit also serves as a celebration of Raising Readers' fifteenth anniversary and its message about supporting the importance of reading aloud to children from birth.

Raising Readers encourages partnering with one of your community's doctors or other healthcare providers on a story hour featuring one of the books in this year's anthology as a way to help us celebrate our program's anniversary and the importance of early literacy. They could talk about Raising Readers and read the featured book aloud. We have included tips for involving a doctor or healthcare provider in a story hour at the end of this kit; however, doing so is not expected or required—just have fun using this kit to create a story hour that you know your community would appreciate and enjoy!

The activity in this kit (**found on page 8**) invites families to weave Penobscot words printed on paper strips into a simple paper grid, simulating basket weaving.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story

By Angeli Perrow

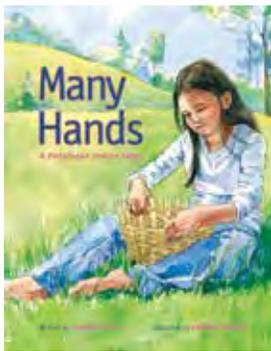
Illustrated by Heather Austin

Published by Down East Books

ISBN-13: 9780892727827

Age range: 4 - 8 Years

Why does everyone keep telling Lily that many hands make the basket? Didn't she make the basket with her very own hands? Why isn't anyone giving her the credit she deserves? In the end, she learns a valuable lesson about pride and the spirit of community. Perrow weaves the process of basket making and a Wabanaki animal legend together into this beautiful story. She also teaches readers about the Penobscot culture and language, an important piece of Maine history.



The book can be found at your library or within the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (Down East Books).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



An elementary school teacher, Angeli Perrow has also worked as a reporter, photographer, and assistant editor of *The Katahdin Times* newspaper. She has published three children's books and lives with her family in Hampden, Maine. Look for more info about

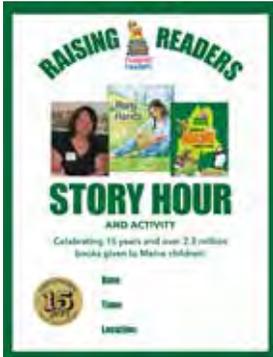
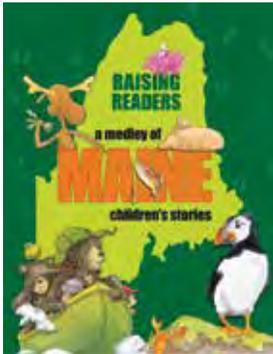
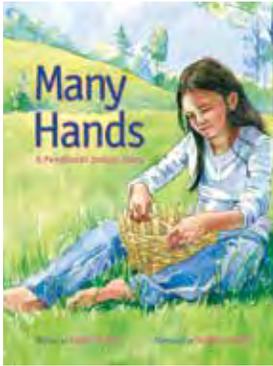
Angeli on her biography page in **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.

One morning while the story for **Many Hands** was forming in Angeli's mind, a vision of a basket topped with a lily made of ash came to her. Tracey Ray, Pam's apprentice, would later make that Lily Basket for Angeli based on her description of that vision. Tracey, whose special symbol is the dragonfly, would also make Angeli a dragonfly from ash and sweetgrass. Both the basket and the dragonfly would be used by illustrator Heather Austin in her paintings for the book.

The Lily Basket travels with Angeli to Maine schools. "When I take it from its container," Angeli said, "they gasp in awe. It makes the story so real."



PREPARING FOR THE STORY HOUR



WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- 1 Locate a copy of the anthology **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (donated to Maine libraries by Raising Readers) or **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story** by Angeli Perrow and illustrated by Heather Austin (Down East Books).
- 2 Copy and display the Story Hour Poster (**found on page 13**) in this kit, hand it out in your community, post it on social media, and include it in a display. List the event in newsletters and online calendars with copy such as:

Join us for a Raising Readers Story Hour to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the program that has given over two million books to Maine children at their well-child visits! (Use next sentence if you partner with a doctor or other healthcare provider on this story hour). _____ (name) will be joining us to tell us more about the program and why reading aloud to children from birth is so important. Together we will be reading **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story** by Angeli Perrow and illustrated by Heather Austin (Down East Books) and practice basket weaving with paper strips.

- 3 Consider a display of books featuring Maine and New England's Native American nations to inspire children to borrow books with themes similar to those in **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story**.
- 4 Look at the two-page "Many Hands" sheet (**found on page 9-10**) in this kit to see how families can practice basket weaving using paper strips printed with Penobscot words. This activity can help children understand what it might be like to weave a basket just like Lily does!

WHAT YOU MIGHT PREPARE - ONE WEEK OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT:



- 1 Print out the two-page **Many Hands** sheet (found on page 9-10) in this kit on heavier paper (if possible) or on regular paper (1 for each anticipated participant).
- 2 Fold the first **Many Hands** sheet in half vertically (with the printed word on the outside). Cut across each horizontal grid line (including the horizontal border of the grid), stopping at the vertical boundaries of the grid's box. Unfold and smooth the paper out.
- 3 Cut the second **Many Hands** sheet of Penobscot words into strips. Make bundles of the words (each bundle should contain one of each of the words) and connect them with a paper clip. Place them in a woven basket. Consider handing a bundle of words to each participant as you talk about the Penobscot words during your read aloud.
- 4 Prepare a short description of the Penobscot Tribe of Indian Island using the Author's Note on page 168 of the **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** or at the end of **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story**. Find a large Maine map and locate Indian Island on it.
- 5 Remind everyone in your network about the upcoming Raising Readers Story Hour event.
- 6 Gather child-safe scissors and clear tape (for all to share). The weaving should stay together without tape. Families might benefit from not using tape because they could re-do the activity at home and further explore the Penobscot words.

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - THE DAY OF THE EVENT



Getting Ready

- Place the **Many Hands** grid sheets, scissors, and tape (optional) on your craft table for all to share.
- Place the basket containing the Penobscot word bundles near your story hour chair for easy distribution to participants after the read aloud.

Read Aloud & Activity

- Share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Raising Readers Talking Points (**found on page 8**). If you have a guest doctor or other healthcare provider, introduce him or her and have them share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Talking Points; at the end of the story hour (before crafting), you can ask families if they have any questions about the program for the doctor or other healthcare provider.
- Explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology being given to Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If you are reading the stand-alone **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story**, explain that the book is part of the anthology and show participants a copy of the anthology if possible.
- Set the scene. Use your prepared remarks and Maine map to help families learn about the Penobscot tribe and where Maine's Indian Island is located.
- Read **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story**.
- Hand out the bundles of Penobscot words. Sound them out and ask participants to join you. You might teach the animal words while looking at the animal illustration on page 142. Teach "grandmother" while showing page 149. Teach "thank you" by asking children to thank their parents or caregivers for bringing them to this fun event! Remember your pronunciation doesn't have to be perfect - have fun trying!



- Help participants make a connection between the Penobscot words and the activity by saying something like: It takes many words to make the Penobscot language. A language is how we talk to each other. We weave together words to say things like, “look at the deer” or “thank you for the basket” or “good morning, grandmother.” The story **Many Hands** is a collection of words that are woven together to make a story. Just like it takes many words to make a language or a story, it takes many people in the Penobscot community to make a beautiful basket.
- Prompt the activity by asking, “Do you want to try weaving like Lily did?”
- Demonstrate weaving by taking a colored word strip and going under and over the strips in the paper grid. Reverse the order with the second strip. Point out how a pattern emerges. Let participants know that the activity isn’t easy and that it may take “many hands” (the help of another child or adult) to make the basket.
- Invite participants to the craft table to weave.



TALKING POINTS FOR RAISING READERS STORY HOURS

Celebrating 15 Years of Books for Maine's Youngest Children

- Studies have shown that reading to young children - even for just 20 minutes a day - helps make them smarter, healthier, and more successful later in life.
- Knowing that literacy begins well before kindergarten, the Libra Foundation created the Raising Readers program in 2000 as a way to give books - for free - to *all* Maine children from birth through age five.
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- Raising Readers is one-of-a-kind; it's the only statewide early literacy program in the United States.
- Now in its 15th year, Raising Readers has reached over 228,000 individual children and given out more than 2.3 million books.

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL DOCTOR OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If you decide to partner with a with a local doctor or healthcare provider for this Raising Readers Story Hour, the following are specific steps you might want to follow:

ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- Contact a healthcare practice that participates in Raising Readers. Visit the Raising Readers website (www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/participating_sites/) to locate a practice near you. All Maine and other healthcare providers who see children for well child care participate in the program, so you can always ask some of your regular family visitors for suggestions on who to contact.
- Contact the selected practice and ask for the "Practice Manager." Explain that you would like to hold a story hour celebrating Raising Readers' 15th anniversary and ask if one of the doctors or other healthcare providers would like to participate by reading the story and talking about Raising Readers. Let the Practice Manager know that you will have talking points on Raising Readers available in advance, and that you would like the doctor or other healthcare provider to do a read-aloud.
- Once a doctor has agreed to participate, share with him or her the Raising Readers Talking Points (see sidebar at left) and An Event Overview for Local Doctors or Other Healthcare Providers (**found on page 12**) to help facilitate his or her participation. Encourage the doctor or other healthcare provider to come to the event dressed in a white coat and stethoscope - this goes a long way to identifying his or her job in the eyes of a child. Ask how you should introduce him or her.



Many Hands

A Penobscot Indian Story

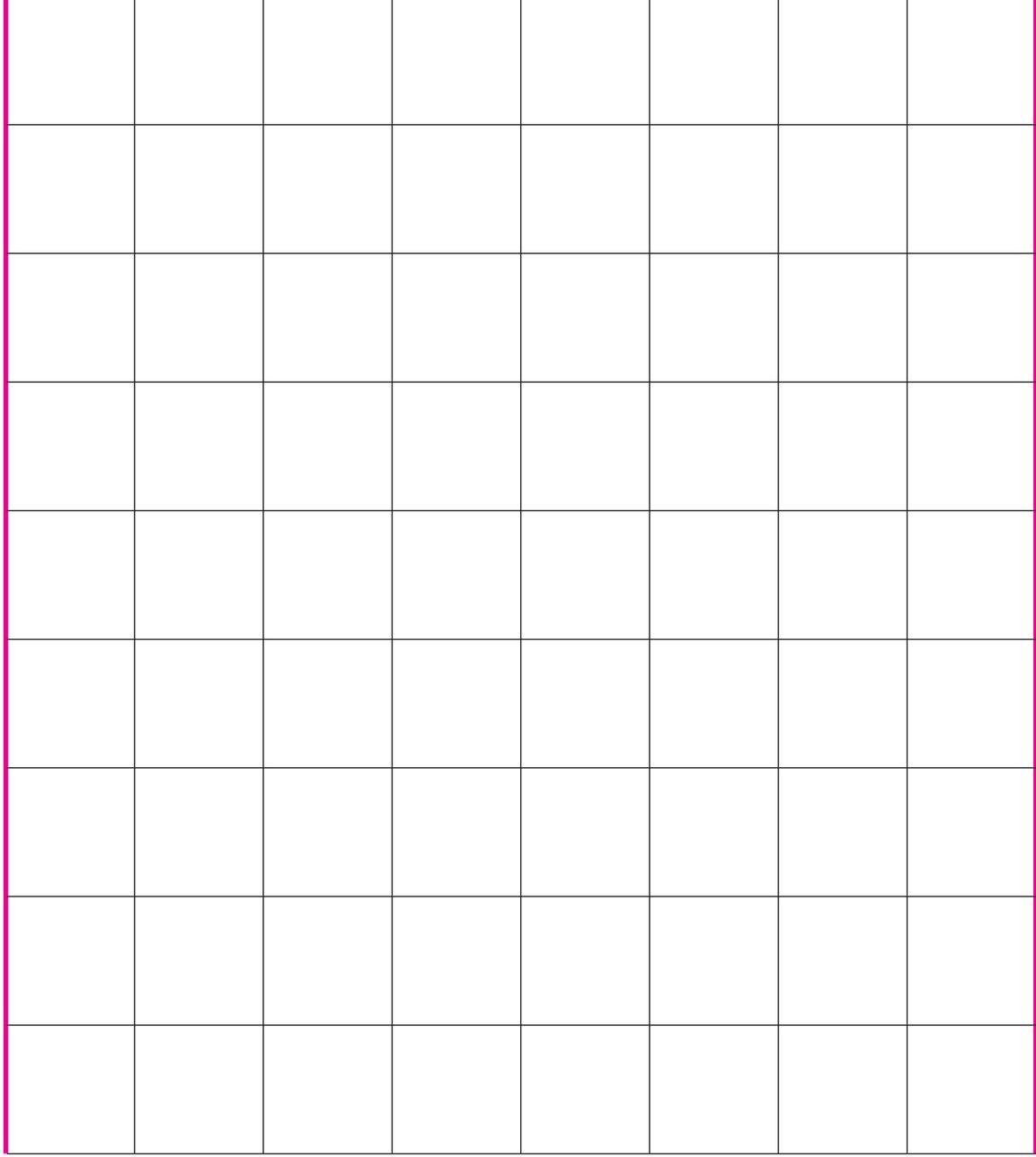
A WORDS AND WEAVING ACTIVITY

Weaving is taking something like sweet grass or paper and making it go under and then over (over and over) something that is staying still. Would you like to try to weave with paper?

If page 10 is not already cut into a grid:

- Fold the sheet in half vertically (with the printed words on the outside on the outside).
- Cut each horizontal line in the grid (including the horizontal border of the grid).
- Stop at the vertical boundaries of the grid's box.
- Unfold the sheet and smooth it out. Now your weaving grid is ready.
- Go to page 10 to cut out colored strips to weave into your grid.

Do not cut outside pink line.



Do not cut outside pink line.

It takes many words to make the Penobscot language. On this sheet, you will find six Penobscot words. Can you weave them into your paper grid just like words are woven into a story?

- Cut out the seven colored strips (if they have not already been cut for you).
- Go to your paper grid and guide your strip **over** and then **under** each line in the grid. Do you see a pattern? You are weaving!
- When you take up the next strip, try to start by going **under** and then **over**. Keep trying. Another amazing pattern may emerge!

- Weave in all your colored strips. You can do this activity again at home by gently pulling out the strips and weaving them again in different ways to show different patterns.
- You could even print out other Penobscot words on colored paper and cut them into strips to make new activities! Ask one of the librarians for help finding and learning about other Penobscot words.

Woliwoni! Thank you for weaving with us!

Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story

Nolke (NOHL - kee) deer

Koksass (KWACK - suss) red fox

Nsawakan (EN - sah - wah - gun) eagle

Nokamass (NOH - cum - muss) my grandmother

Woliwoni (Woh - lee - WAW - nee) thank-you]

Penobscot River – place of the white rocks

RAISING READERS STORY HOUR:

An Event Overview for Local Doctors and Other Healthcare Providers

Date:

Time:

Location:

Thank you for considering a visit to our library to promote Raising Readers to our families and to celebrate Raising Readers' 15th anniversary! Here is an outline of what will happen at the event:

The Book

The featured book at our event will be **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story** by Angeli Perrow and illustrated by Heather Austin (Down East Books), which is in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**. This anthology is the upcoming selection for five-year-olds. Let Raising Readers know if you need a copy to review.

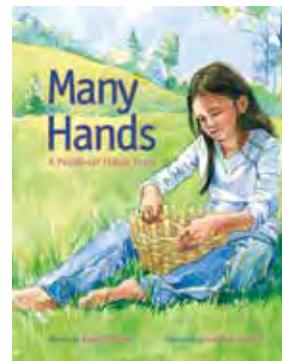
Preparation

- Look over the Raising Readers Talking Points (attached) and prepare to talk for five minutes or less about why you recommend reading aloud to children every day from birth.
- Get familiar with the book, **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story** by Angeli Perrow and illustrated by Heather Austin (Down East Books). Let me know if you would like to read it aloud or whether you prefer that I do so.
- Think about what you might wear to the event that makes families "see" you as a doctor. Raising Readers tells us that wearing a stethoscope, for example, makes you instantly recognizable to families.
- Send me a short bio that will help me introduce you.

The Event

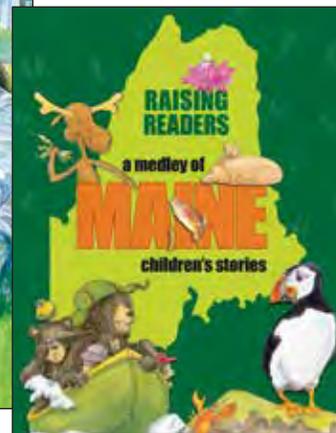
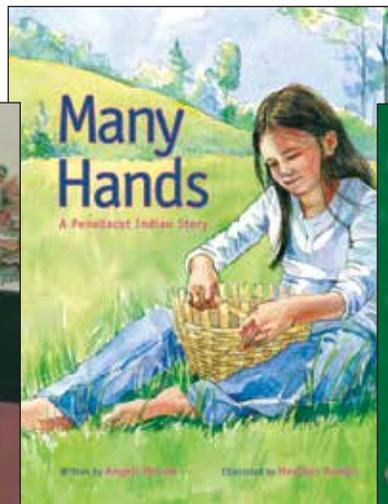
This is what we have planned for the event:

- There will be a craft table laid out with paper grids for a weaving activity after the read aloud.
- I will introduce you and you will give your own rendition of the Raising Readers Talking Points.
- I will explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology that is being given to all Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If we are reading the stand-alone **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story**, I will explain that the book is part of the anthology and show the anthology.
- I will say a few words about the Penobscot people of Maine and Indian Island.
- You or I will read **Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story**.
- I will hand out strips of paper with the Penobscot words from the story. I will talk with children about how many words weave a language and a story and relate that to "many hands making a basket."
- I will demonstrate and prompt the craft activity.



Thank you so much for participating with our library as we celebrate Raising Readers' 15th Anniversary!

RAISING READERS



STORY HOUR AND ACTIVITY

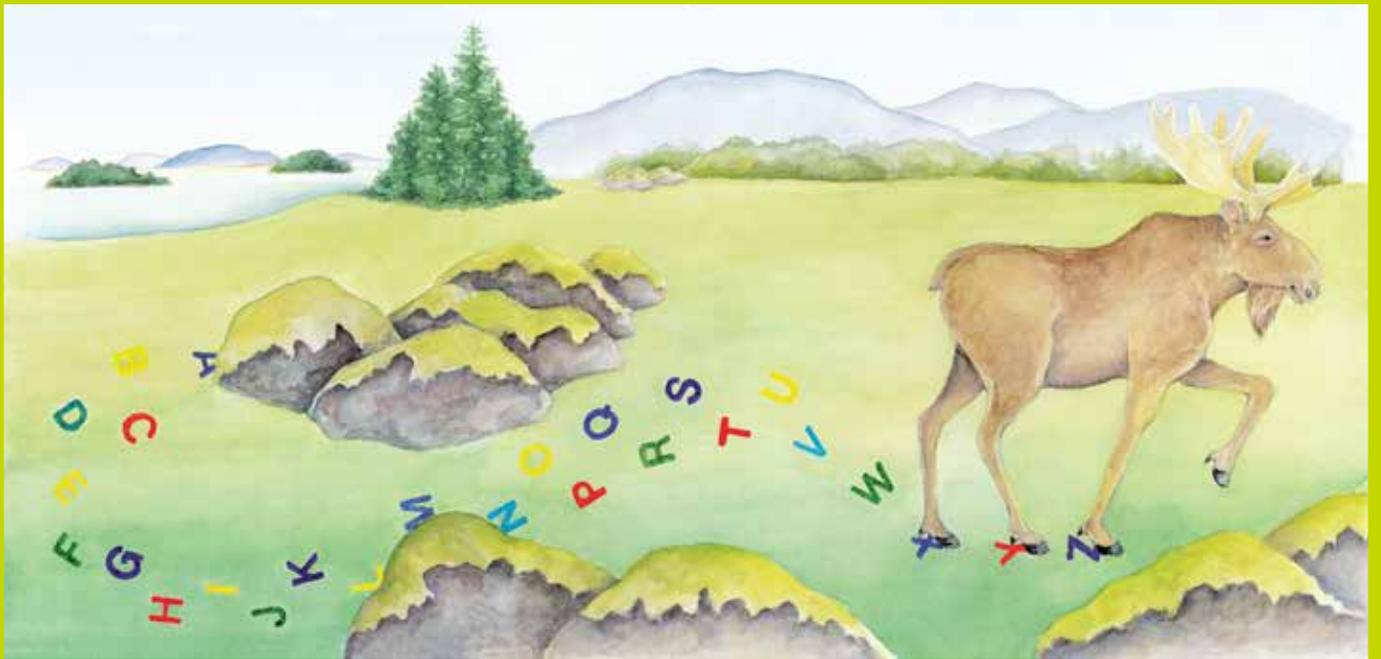
Celebrating 15 years and over 2.3 million
books given to Maine children!



Date:

Time:

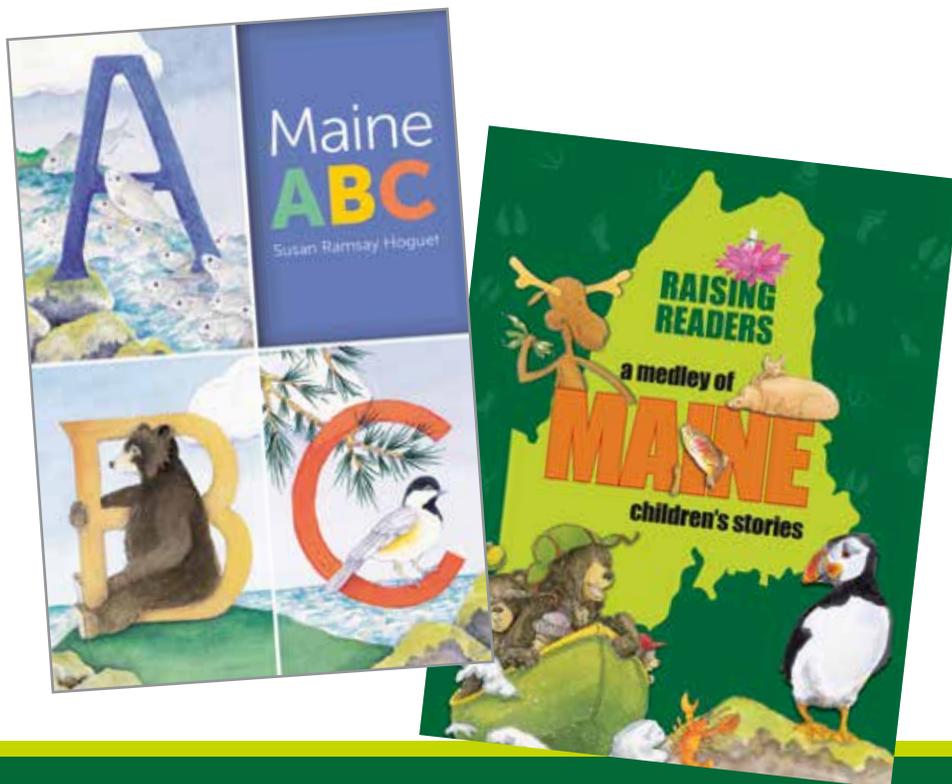
Location:



RAISING READERS

STORY HOUR KIT

An ABC Activity to be used with a read aloud of **Maine ABC** by Susan Ramsay Hoguet (Down East Books) featured in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories.**





ABOUT RAISING READERS

It's a fact that reading to young children makes them smarter, healthier, and better prepared for life. It is this simple truth that led Maine's Libra Foundation to create **Raising Readers**, a statewide program that gives books—free of charge—to all Maine children between the ages of birth and five at well-child healthcare visits.

Through the simple act of placing books in children's hands, **Raising Readers** reinforces the powerful understanding that literacy begins well before children enter kindergarten. By integrating books into birth and primary care, the program also supports the well-documented link between health and literacy.

More info:

www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/

ABOUT THE KIT

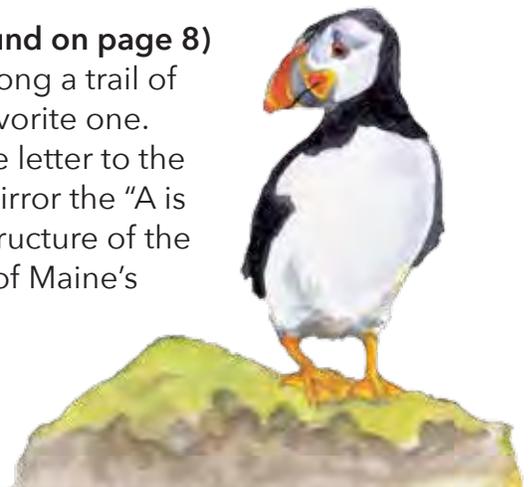
This Story Hour Kit was created to celebrate the publication of Raising Readers' tenth and last anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.



This anthology of five stories by Maine authors and illustrators published by Down East Books will be given to all Maine libraries and distributed statewide to five-year-olds at their well-child healthcare visit for a year. The kit also serves as a celebration of Raising Readers' fifteenth anniversary and its message about supporting the importance of reading aloud to children from birth.

Raising Readers encourages partnering with one of your community's doctors or other healthcare providers on a story hour featuring one of the books in this year's anthology as a way to help us celebrate our program's anniversary and the importance of early literacy. They could talk about Raising Readers and read the featured book aloud. We have included tips for involving a doctor or healthcare provider in a story hour at the end of this kit; however, doing so is not expected or required—just have fun using this kit to create a story hour that you know your community would appreciate and enjoy!

The activity in this kit (**found on page 8**) invites families to walk along a trail of letters and select their favorite one. By attaching their favorite letter to the activity sheet, they can mirror the "A is for alewives" sentence structure of the book and identify some of Maine's natural wonders.

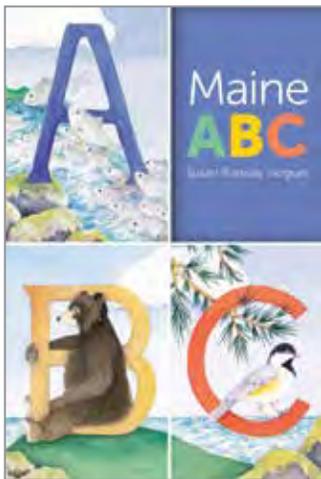


ABOUT THE BOOK

Maine ABC

By Susan Ramsay Hoguet
Published by Down East Books
ISBN-13: 9781608931828
Age range: 2 - 6 Years

What better way for children to learn their ABCs and discover more about Maine than with this vibrant and whimsical book from Camden, Maine's, artist Susan Ramsay Hoguet? Illustrating distinct Maine icons such as moose, lobster, and Mount Katahdin, the rhyming verse will have children singing, learning their their alphabet and new words, and asking for the book to be read aloud again and again.



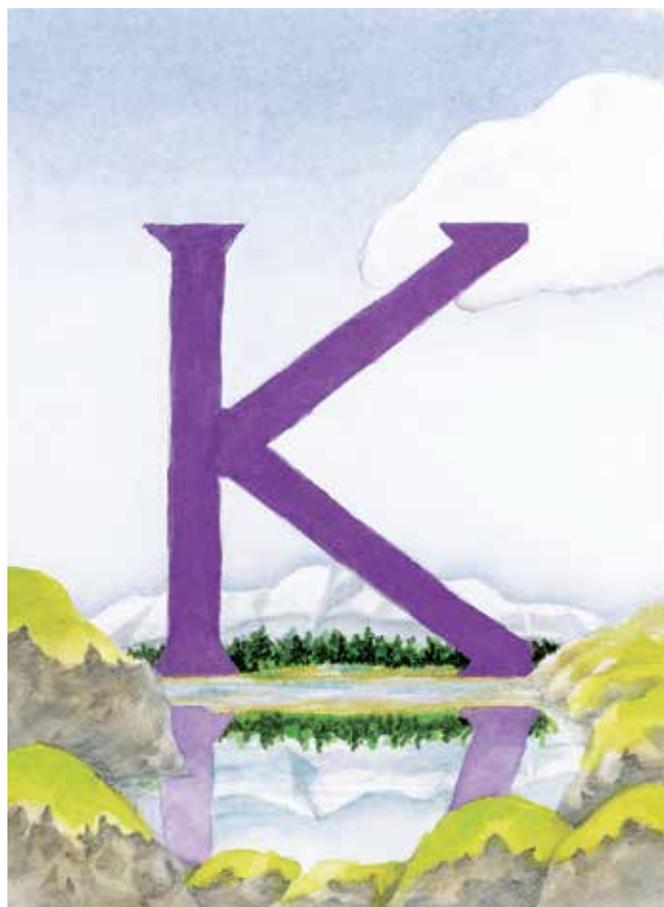
The book can be found at a local bookstore or library or within the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (Down East Books).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



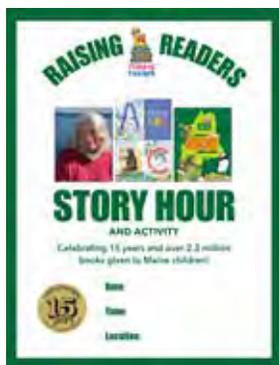
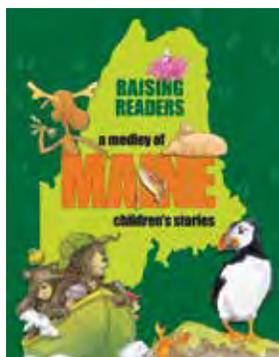
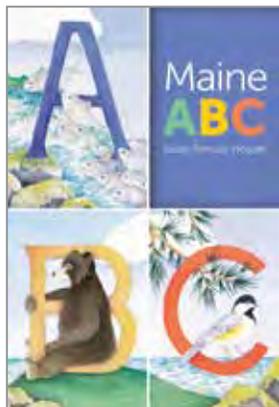
Susan Ramsay Hoguet has written and illustrated several children's books. For nearly fifteen years, she has run Animal Tile Works, which specializes in creating hand-painted tile accessories for children's spaces. Her tile work has been featured in *This Old House*, *Better Homes and*

Gardens, and *1,2,3 Tiling*. She has also sold giclee prints and posters of the illustrations from **Maine ABC**. She lives in Camden, Maine. Look for more info about Susan on the biography page of **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.



K is for Katahdin with snow at the top.

PREPARING FOR THE STORY HOUR



Place letter here

is for _____

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- 1 Locate a copy of the anthology **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (donated to Maine libraries by Raising Readers) or **Maine ABC** written and illustrated by Susan Ramsay Hoguet (Down East Books).
- 2 Copy and display the Story Hour Poster (found on page 11) in this kit, hand it out in your community, post it on social media, and include it in a display. List the event in newsletters and online calendars with copy such as:

Join us for a Raising Readers Story Hour to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the program that has given over two million books to Maine children at their well-child visits! (Use next sentence if you partner with a Raising Readers doctor or healthcare provider on this story hour). _____ (name) will be joining us to tell us more about the program and why reading aloud to children from birth is so important. Together we will be reading **Maine ABC** by Susan Ramsay Hoguet (Down East Books) and following a trail of ABCs to an activity featuring Maine's natural wonders.

- 3 Consider a display of fiction and nonfiction books featuring Maine wildlife and natural wonders to inspire children to borrow books with themes similar to those in **Maine ABC**.
- 4 Consider ordering a set of 4-inch cut-out or stick-on uppercase letters. We suggest using the "4-inch Casual Uppercase Ready Letters" available at Amazon and other locations. The letters come in many color choices.



WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE WEEK OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT:

- 1 Print out the “Maine ABC Letter Template” (**found on page 9**) in this kit on regular paper (1 for each anticipated participant).
- 2 Remind everyone in your network about the upcoming Raising Readers Story Hour event.
- 3 Gather child-safe scissors, crayons and clear tape (for all to share).

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - THE DAY OF THE EVENT

Getting Ready

- Lay letters along your floor to mimic the moose’s path of ABCs in the opening pages of **Maine ABC**.
- Place crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, and the “Maine ABC Letter Template” on your craft table for all to share.

Read Aloud & Activity

- Have participants select a letter from the path as they arrive.
- Share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Raising Readers Talking Points (**found on page 7**). If you have a guest doctor or healthcare provider, introduce him or her and have them share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Talking Points; at the end of the story hour (before crafting), you can ask families if they have any questions about the program for the guest doctor or healthcare provider.
- Explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children’s Stories** is the anthology being given to Maine five-year-olds at their well-child healthcare visits in the coming year. If you are reading the stand-alone **Maine ABC**, explain that the book is part of the anthology and show participants a copy of the anthology if possible.

READ ALOUD ACTION PROMPTS

- B is for Bear: Can you yawn like a big sleepy bear coming out of its den in the springtime?
 - C is for Chickadee: Can you sing like a chickadee? Chick-a-dee, dee, dee!
 - E is for Eagle: Can you spread your arms like the wings of a bald eagle?
 - G is for Gull: Can you open and close your beak like a gull? (Open and close your hand in front of your mouth).
 - L is for Lobster: Can you snap your claws like a lobster? (Hold your hands out and touch your fingers to your thumb).
 - M is for Moose: Can you pretend you have antlers like a bull moose? (Place your wrists on your temples and splay fingers).
 - Q is for Quahog: Can you be as quiet as a quahog? (Press your lips together).
 - S is for Seal: Can you clap your flippers like a seal? (Put your elbows to your side and clap your hands).
 - Z is for a Zillion Snowflakes: Can we make a zillion snowflakes fall? (Hold arms above your head and wiggle your fingers as you bring your hands down).
- Show participants the dedication page of **Maine ABC** (page 8-9 in the anthology) and ask what animal came walking into the story over a path of letters just like they did today! Ask them to hold up their selected letter when they hear it mentioned during the read aloud of the book.



- Read **Maine ABC** with as many read aloud action prompts as you want to include (see sidebar to the left).
- Prompt the activity by saying something like: “Every word is made of letters just like the letter you hold in your hand. Think about words that might start with the letter you hold in your hand. Maybe you can remember the word in **Maine ABC** that started with your letter or maybe you would like to choose another animal or place from Maine that starts with your letter. You can look through the books here to get some ideas! And you can ask your parent or the person taking care of you (or me!) for help.”
- Then, tell participants: “Once you decide on a word that begins with your letter, you can glue your letter on this piece of paper [demonstrate], and write down your word and anything you know about it (if you need help, just ask an adult!) You could even write down questions you have about your word or draw it!”
- If there is enough time, consider having participants share their final product (letter, word, things they know, questions they have) with the group.

TALKING POINTS FOR RAISING READERS STORY HOURS

Celebrating 15 Years of Books for Maine's Youngest Children

- Studies have shown that reading to young children – even for just 20 minutes a day – helps make them smarter, healthier, and more successful later in life.
- Knowing that literacy begins well before kindergarten, the Libra Foundation created the Raising Readers program in 2000 as a way to give books – for free – to *all* Maine children from birth through age five.
- Books are given to families at well-child visits and after birth, which helps reinforce the connection between health and literacy.
- All Maine hospitals and healthcare practices that see children participate in the program to ensure that every child in all 16 counties receives a collection of free high-quality, age-appropriate books before age five.
- The program is a collaboration between MaineHealth and EMHS, the two largest health systems in the state.
- Raising Readers is one-of-a-kind; it's the only statewide early literacy program in the United States.
- Now in its 15th year, Raising Readers has reached over 228,000 individual children and given out more than 2.3 million books.

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL DOCTOR OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If you decide to partner with a with a local doctor or healthcare provider for this Raising Readers Story Hour, the following are specific steps you might want to follow:

ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- Contact a healthcare practice that participates in Raising Readers. Visit the Raising Readers website (www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/participating_sites/) to locate a practice near you. All Maine and other healthcare providers who see children for well child care participate in the program, so you can always ask some of your regular family visitors for suggestions on who to contact.
- Contact the selected practice and ask for the “Practice Manager.” Explain that you would like to hold a story hour celebrating Raising Readers’ 15th anniversary and ask if one of the doctors or other healthcare providers would like to participate by reading the story and talking about Raising Readers. Let the Practice Manager know that you will have talking points on Raising Readers available in advance, and that you would like the doctor or other healthcare provider to do a read-aloud.
- Once a doctor has agreed to participate, share with him or her the Raising Readers Talking Points (see sidebar at left) and An Event Overview for Local Doctors or Other Healthcare Providers (**found on page 10**) to help facilitate his or her participation. Encourage the doctor or other healthcare provider to come to the event dressed in a white coat and stethoscope – this goes a long way to identifying his or her job in the eyes of a child. Ask how you should introduce him or her.

Maine

ABC

FAVORITE LETTER ACTIVITY

If you haven't already, choose or find your favorite letter of the alphabet from those in the path on the floor. Write or glue that letter to a piece of paper. Think of a Maine animal, bird, place, or other natural wonder that begins with that letter. Complete the sentence "_____ is for _____" with your Maine thing or place.

For example, "B is for a bear in the Camden Hills."

Explore books that talk about Maine's creatures and places at this or any other library in Maine!



Place letter here



is for



RAISING READERS STORY HOUR:

An Event Overview for Local Doctors and Other Healthcare Providers

Date:

Time:

Location:

Thank you for considering a visit to our library to promote Raising Readers to our families and to celebrate Raising Readers' 15th anniversary! Here is an outline of what will happen at the event:

The Book

The featured book at our event will be **Maine ABC** by Susan Ramsay Hoguet (Down East Books), which is in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**. This anthology is the upcoming selection for five-year-olds. Let Raising Readers know if you need a copy to review.

Preparation

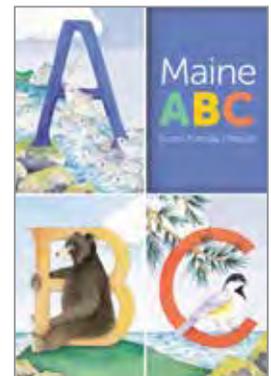
- Look over the Raising Readers Talking Points (attached) and prepare to talk for five minutes or less about why you recommend reading aloud to children every day from birth.
- Get familiar with the book, **Maine ABC** by Susan Ramsay Hoguet (Down East Books). Let me know if you would like to read it aloud or whether you prefer that I do so.
- Think about what you might wear to the event that makes families "see" you as a doctor. Raising Readers tells us that wearing a stethoscope, for example, makes you instantly recognizable to families.
- Send me a short bio that will help me introduce you.

The Event

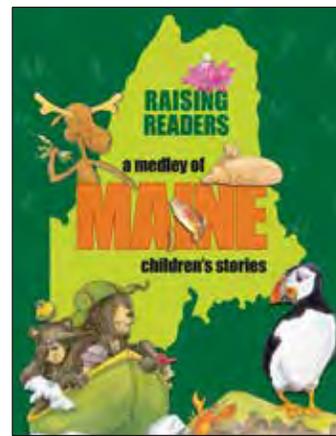
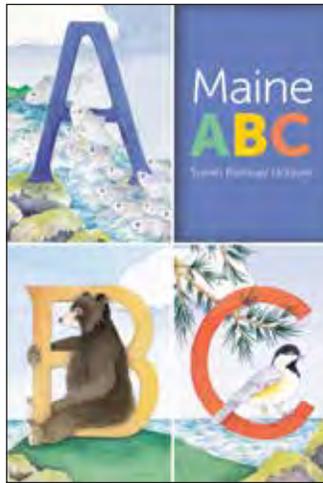
This is what we have planned for the event:

- Families will be greeted by a path of letters laid out on the floor to mimic the moose's path of ABCs in the opening spread of **Maine ABC**. At my encouragement, children will select their favorite letter as they arrive.
- There will be a craft table laid out with crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, and "Maine ABC" sheets for an activity after the read aloud.
- I will introduce you and you will give your own rendition of the Raising Readers Talking Points.
- I will explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology that is being given to all Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If we are reading the stand-alone **Maine ABC**, I will explain that the book is part of the anthology and show the anthology.
- I will show the dedication page of **Maine ABC** (page 8-9 in the anthology) and ask who else came walking in over a path of letters.
- I will ask children to hold up their letter when they hear it mentioned during the read aloud of the book.
- You or I will read **Maine ABC** with as many read aloud action prompts as desired.
- I will invite parents to ask you and library staff about Raising Readers and reading aloud to children.
- I will prompt the craft activity.

Thank you so much for participating with our library as we celebrate Raising Readers' 15th Anniversary!



RAISING READERS



STORY HOUR AND ACTIVITY

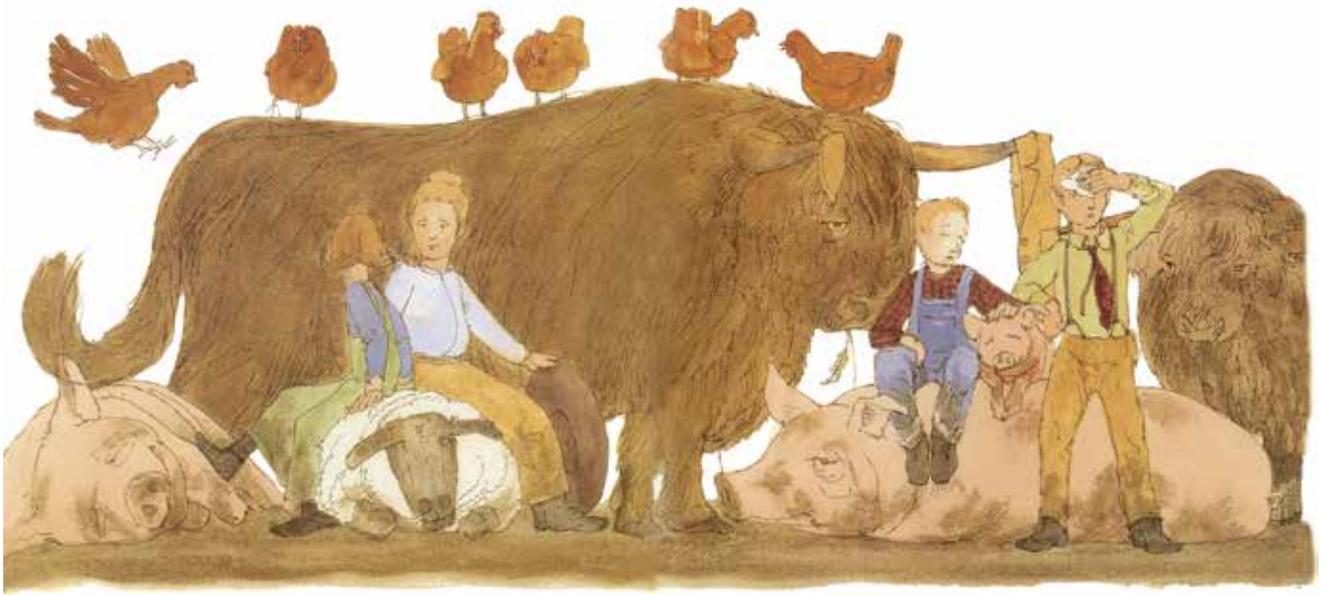
Celebrating 15 years and over 2.3 million
books given to Maine children!



Date:

Time:

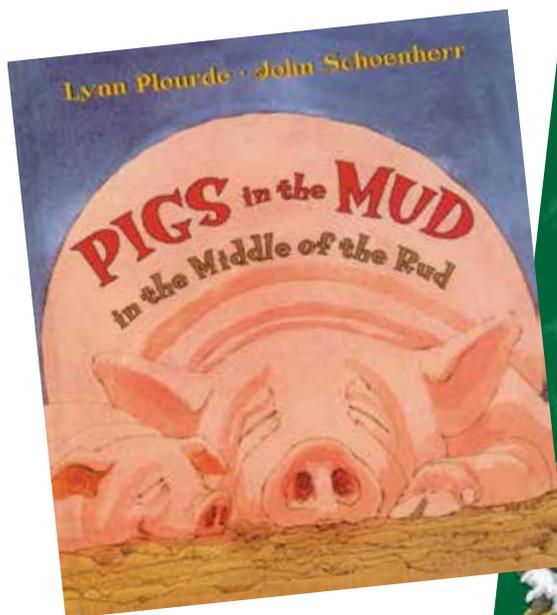
Location:



RAISING READERS

STORY HOUR KIT

A barnyard mask and playacting activity to be used with a read aloud of **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Mud** by Lynn Plourde and illustrated by John Schoenherr (Down East Books) featured in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories.**





ABOUT RAISING READERS

It's a fact that reading to young children makes them smarter, healthier, and better prepared for life. It is this simple truth that led Maine's Libra Foundation to create **Raising Readers**, a statewide program that gives books—free of charge—to all Maine children between the ages of birth and five at well-child healthcare visits.

Through the simple act of placing books in children's hands, **Raising Readers** reinforces the powerful understanding that literacy begins well before children enter kindergarten. By integrating books into birth and primary care, the program also supports the well-documented link between health and literacy.

More info:

www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/

ABOUT THE KIT

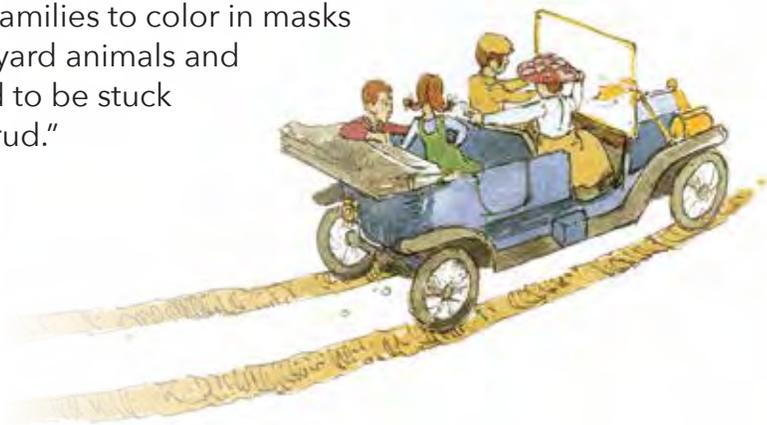
This Story Hour Kit was created to celebrate the publication of Raising Readers' tenth and last anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.



This anthology of five stories by Maine authors and illustrators published by Down East Books will be given to all Maine libraries and distributed statewide to five-year-olds at their well-child healthcare visit for a year. The kit also serves as a celebration of Raising Readers' fifteenth anniversary and its message about supporting the importance of reading aloud to children from birth.

Raising Readers encourages partnering with one of your community's doctors or other healthcare providers on a story hour featuring one of the books in this year's anthology as a way to help us celebrate our program's anniversary and the importance of early literacy. They could talk about Raising Readers and read the featured book aloud. We have included tips for involving a doctor or healthcare provider in a story hour at the end of this kit; however, doing so is not expected or required—just have fun using this kit to create a story hour that you know your community would appreciate and enjoy!

The activity in this kit (**found on page 8**) invites families to color in masks of barnyard animals and pretend to be stuck in the "rud."



ABOUT THE BOOK

Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud

By Lynn Plourde

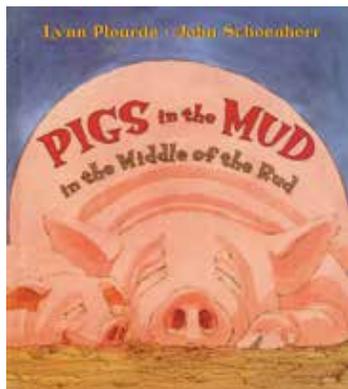
Illustrated by John Schoenherr

Published by Down East Books

ISBN-13: 9780892727193

Age range: 4 - 8 Years

It's mud season, but there's more than mud in the middle of the road! Pigs, hens, sheep, and bulls are there too! That won't do. For a car to get through, somebody's gotta shoo! But who? Plourde's trademark style blends alliteration and rhyme in a story that children—and adults—enjoy reading aloud.



The book can be found at your library or within the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (Down East Books).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lynn Plourde is the author of more than 25 children's books, including **Wild Child**, **At One in a Place Called Maine**, and **You're Wearing THAT to School?!** She also co-authored the graphic novel **Lost Trail: Nine Days Alone in the Wilderness** with Donn Fendler. Lynn's books have won a variety of honors, including Chicago Public Library Best of the Best, Junior Library Guild selection, *Smithsonian Magazine* Notable Book, IPPY Bronze Medal, Lupine Honor Awards, Los Angeles Times Best Children's Book, Maine Literary Award, and Oppenheim Gold Award. Lynn is a Maine native who grew up in Skowhegan and currently lives in Winthrop with her husband, Paul Knowles. She enjoys reading, walks, snowshoeing, and kayaking.

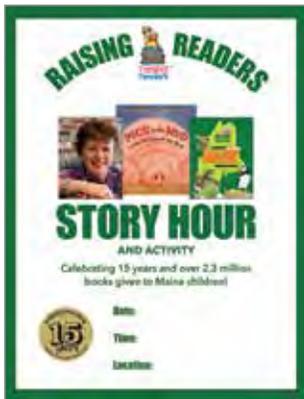
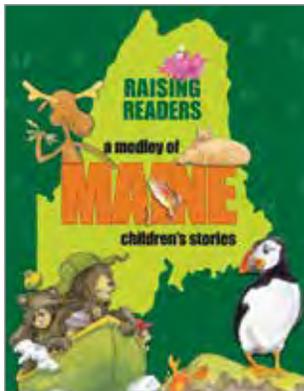
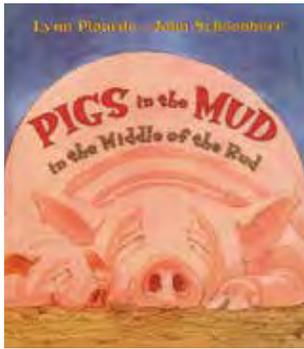
One day, children's book author Lynn Plourde looked out the window in Madison, Maine, and saw eight piglets running down the road. Where in the world had those pigs come from, and where were they going? Later that day, Lynn was teaching a writing lesson to elementary school students. She used the pigs as an example of a great way to start a story.

This writing advice was so good that Lynn rushed home to write those piglets into the story, *Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud*. Lynn had been trying for thirteen years to publish a book for children. When she wrote the chorus "Oh, no. Won't do. Gotta shoo. But who?" she thought she might have the read-aloud she had been waiting for. The publisher agreed that the chorus, rhymes, and made-up words were great, but they did not like the skunk. Skunk?

What skunk? Lynn had to politely ask the skunk to leave the story, and then the publisher happily offered to make her story as a picture book.



PREPARING FOR THE STORY HOUR



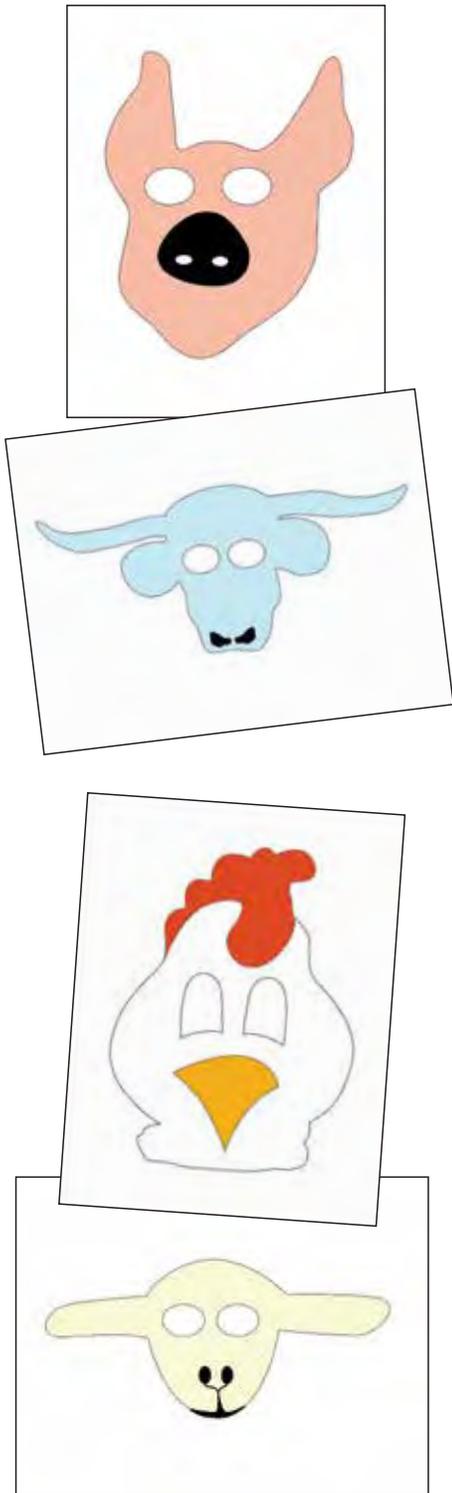
WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- 1 Locate a copy of the anthology **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (donated to Maine libraries by Raising Readers) or **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud** by Lynn Plourde and illustrated by John Schoenherr (Down East Books).
- 2 Copy and display the Story Hour Poster (**found on page 14**) in this kit, hand it out in your community, post it on social media, and include it in a display. List the event in newsletters and online calendars with copy such as:

Join us for a Raising Readers Story Hour to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the program that has given over two million books to Maine children at their well-child visits! (Use next sentence if you partner with a doctor or healthcare provider on this story hour). _____ (name) will be joining us to tell us more about the program and why reading aloud to children from birth is so important. Together we will be reading **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud** by Lynn Plourde and illustrated by John Schoenherr (Down East Books) and making masks of animals stuck in mud in the "rud"!

- 3 Consider a display of other books by Lynn Plourde or those with a barnyard theme to inspire children to borrow Plourde's books or those with a theme like that in **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud!**
- 4 Gather popsicle sticks or straws to use as mask handles (1 for each anticipated participant).

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE WEEK OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT:



- 1 Print out multiple copies of the **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud** masks included in this kit on heavy paper if possible.
- 2 Decide whether you want to pre-cut the masks and the eye holes.
- 3 Consider whether you will use the masks to act out the story during your read aloud.
- 4 Remind everyone in your network about the upcoming Raising Readers Story Hour event.
- 5 Gather child-safe scissors, crayons and clear tape (for all to share).

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - THE DAY OF THE EVENT

Getting Ready

- Place crayons, scissors, tape, popsicle sticks or straws, and masks on your craft table for all to share.
- If you plan to have families act out the book on the second reading, make sure you have a spot clear to serve as the "rud."

Read Aloud & Activity

- Have participants pick out an animal mask (a pig, a sheep, a bull, or a hen) as they arrive.
- Share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Raising Readers Talking Points (**found on page 7**). If you have a guest doctor or healthcare provider, introduce him or her and have them share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Talking Points; at the end of the story hour (before crafting), you can ask families if they have any questions about the program for the guest doctor or healthcare provider.

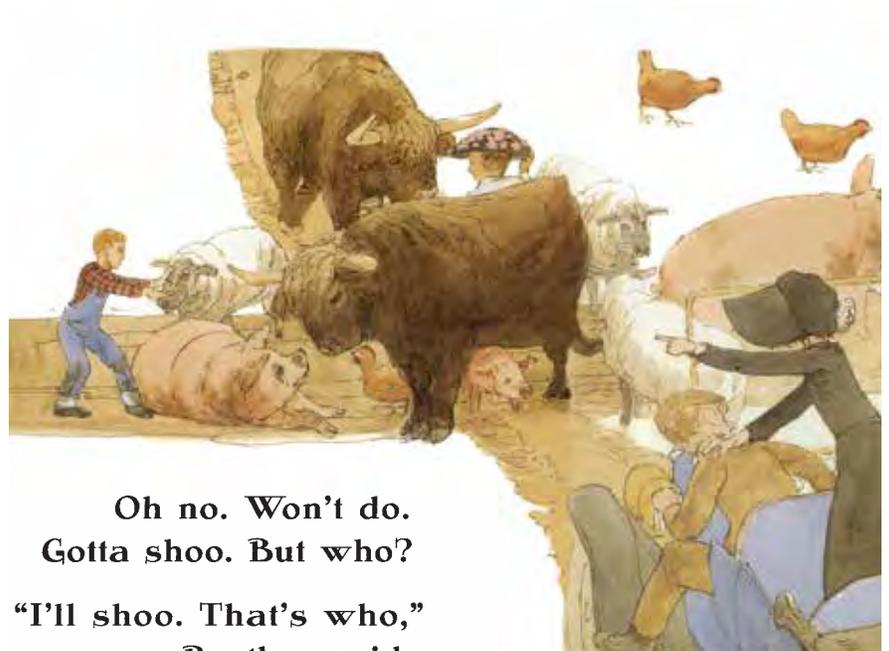
“Pigs in the rud!”
Grandma said.



**“TIME
FOR SUP!”**



- Explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children’s Stories** is the anthology being given to Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If you read from the stand-alone **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud**, explain that the book is part of the anthology and show participants a copy of the anthology if possible.
- Read **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud**. Consider acting out the story on the second reading.
- Ask volunteers to act as animals in mud in the middle of the “rud” while you read the story for the second time. Show them where the “rud” is and invite those with pig masks up to “oink” when they are first mentioned in the story, then those with hen masks to “cluck,” then those with sheep masks to “bah,” and finally those with bull masks to “lowww.” Other participants can then hold up their masks and continue making noise throughout the story. Anyone who doesn’t have a mask on can flap their hands in front of themselves whenever you read “shoo.” Send everyone back to their seats when you yell, ‘Time for sup!’ This should make for some silly story hour chaos!
- Invite all participants to the craft table to color their barnyard animal masks.



**Oh no. Won’t do.
Gotta shoo. But who?**
“I’ll shoo. That’s who,”
Brother said.

TALKING POINTS FOR RAISING READERS STORY HOURS

Celebrating 15 Years of Books for Maine's Youngest Children

- Studies have shown that reading to young children – even for just 20 minutes a day – helps make them smarter, healthier, and more successful later in life.
- Knowing that literacy begins well before kindergarten, the Libra Foundation created the Raising Readers program in 2000 as a way to give books – for free – to *all* Maine children from birth through age five.
- Books are given to families at well-child visits and after birth, which helps reinforce the connection between health and literacy.
- All Maine hospitals and healthcare practices that see children participate in the program to ensure that every child in all 16 counties receives a collection of free high-quality, age-appropriate books before age five.
- The program is a collaboration between MaineHealth and EMHS, the two largest health systems in the state.
- Raising Readers is one-of-a-kind; it's the only statewide early literacy program in the United States.
- Now in its 15th year, Raising Readers has reached over 228,000 individual children and given out more than 2.3 million books.

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL DOCTOR OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If you decide to partner with a with a local doctor or healthcare provider for this Raising Readers Story Hour, the following are specific steps you might want to follow:

ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- Contact a healthcare practice that participates in Raising Readers. Visit the Raising Readers website (www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/participating_sites/) to locate a practice near you. All Maine and other healthcare providers who see children for well child care participate in the program, so you can always ask some of your regular family visitors for suggestions on who to contact.
- Contact the selected practice and ask for the “Practice Manager.” Explain that you would like to hold a story hour celebrating Raising Readers’ 15th anniversary and ask if one of the doctors or other healthcare providers would like to participate by reading the story and talking about Raising Readers. Let the Practice Manager know that you will have talking points on Raising Readers available in advance, and that you would like the doctor or other healthcare provider to do a read-aloud.
- Once a doctor has agreed to participate, share with him or her the Raising Readers Talking Points (see sidebar at left) and An Event Overview for Local Doctors or Other Healthcare Providers (**found on page 13**) to help facilitate his or her participation. Encourage the doctor or other healthcare provider to come to the event dressed in a white coat and stethoscope – this goes a long way to identifying his or her job in the eyes of a child. Ask how you should introduce him or her.

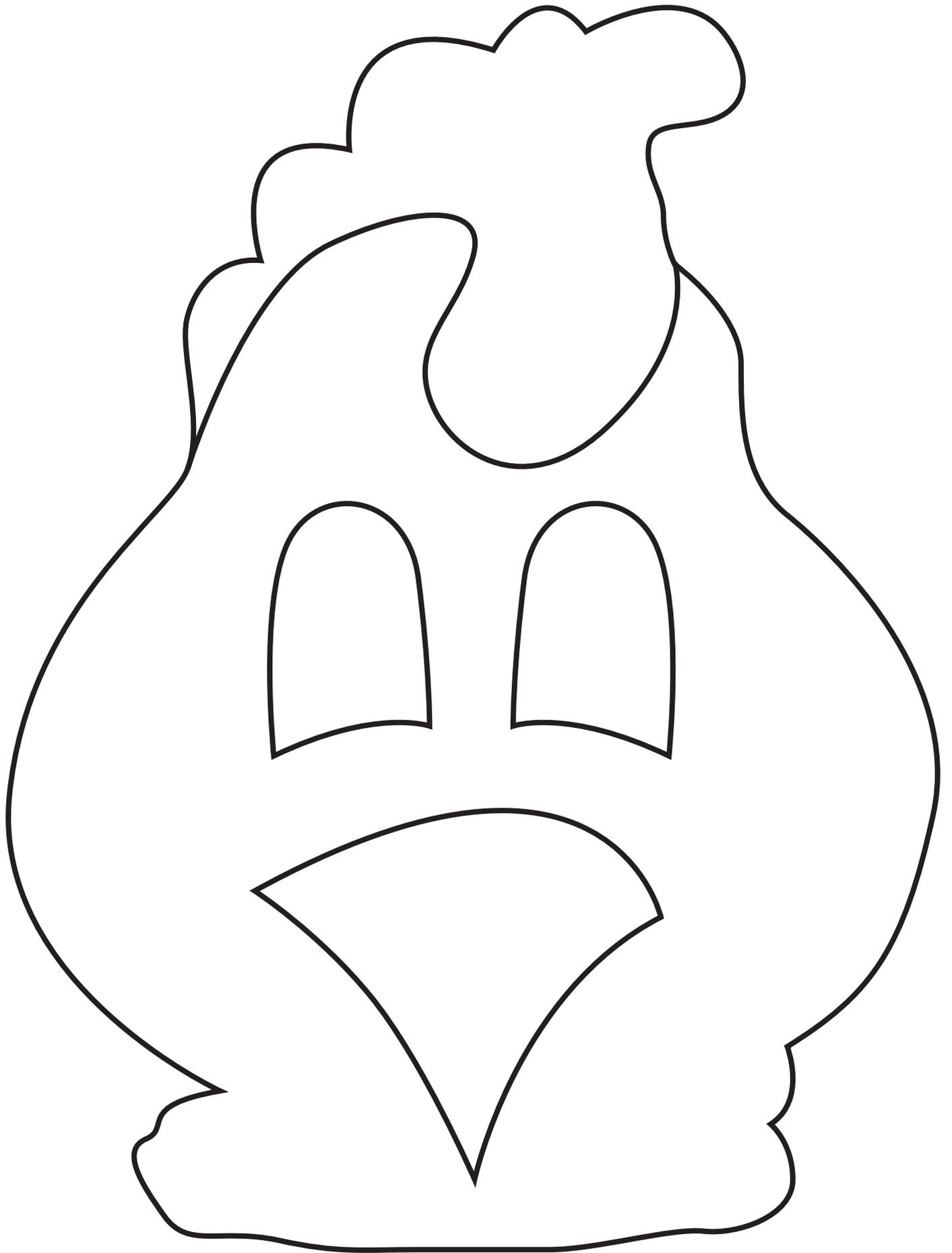
PIGS *in the* MUD

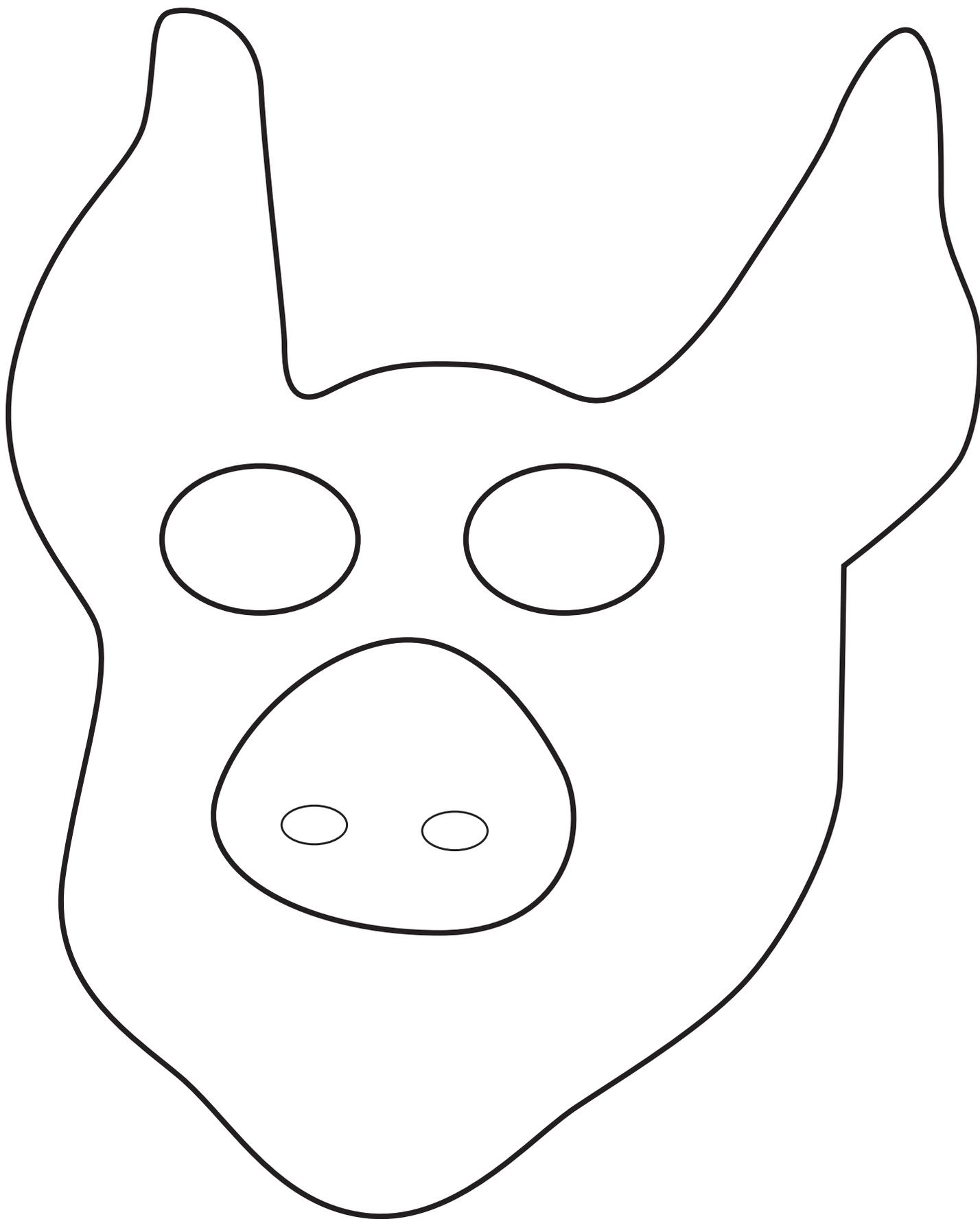
in the Middle of the Rud

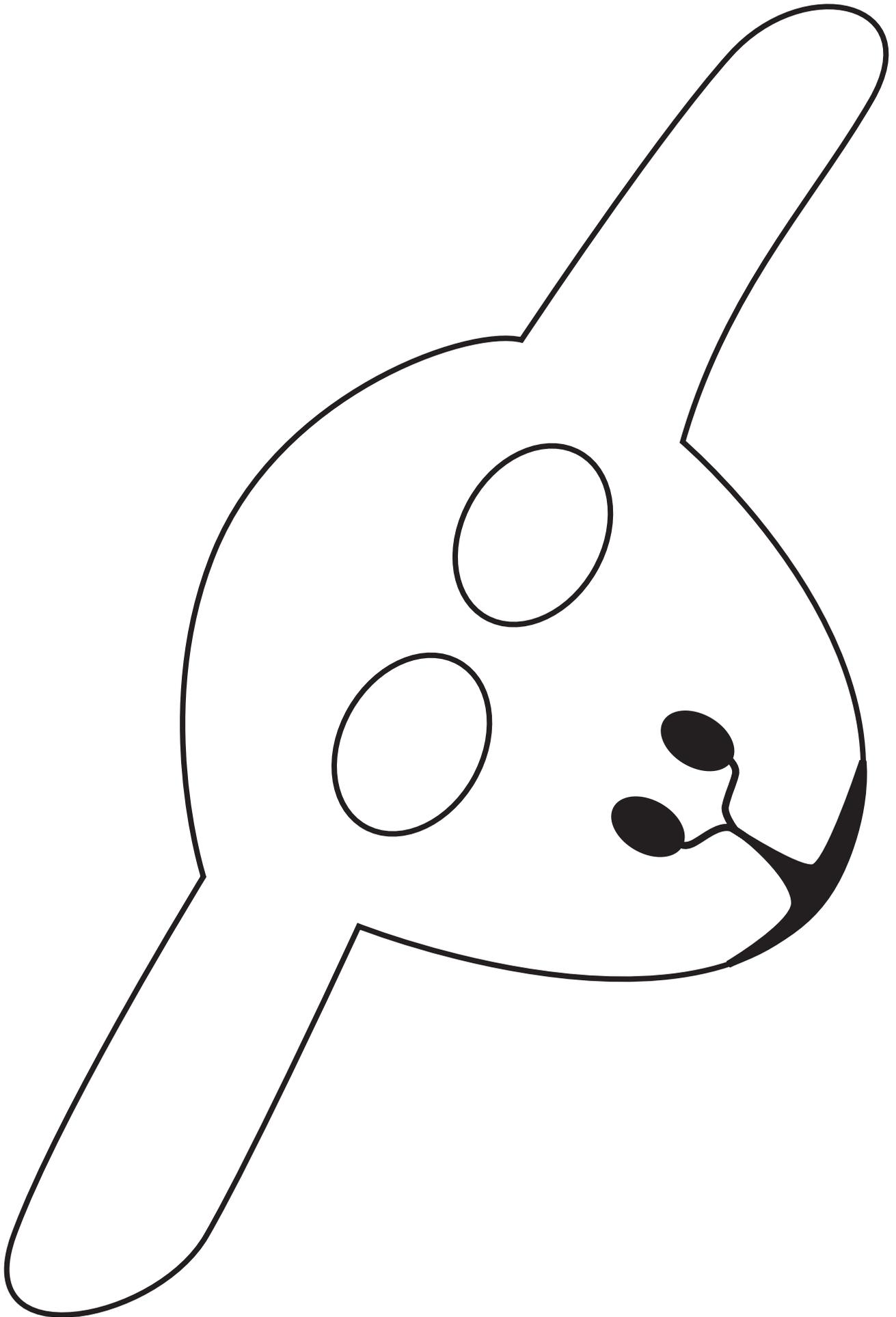


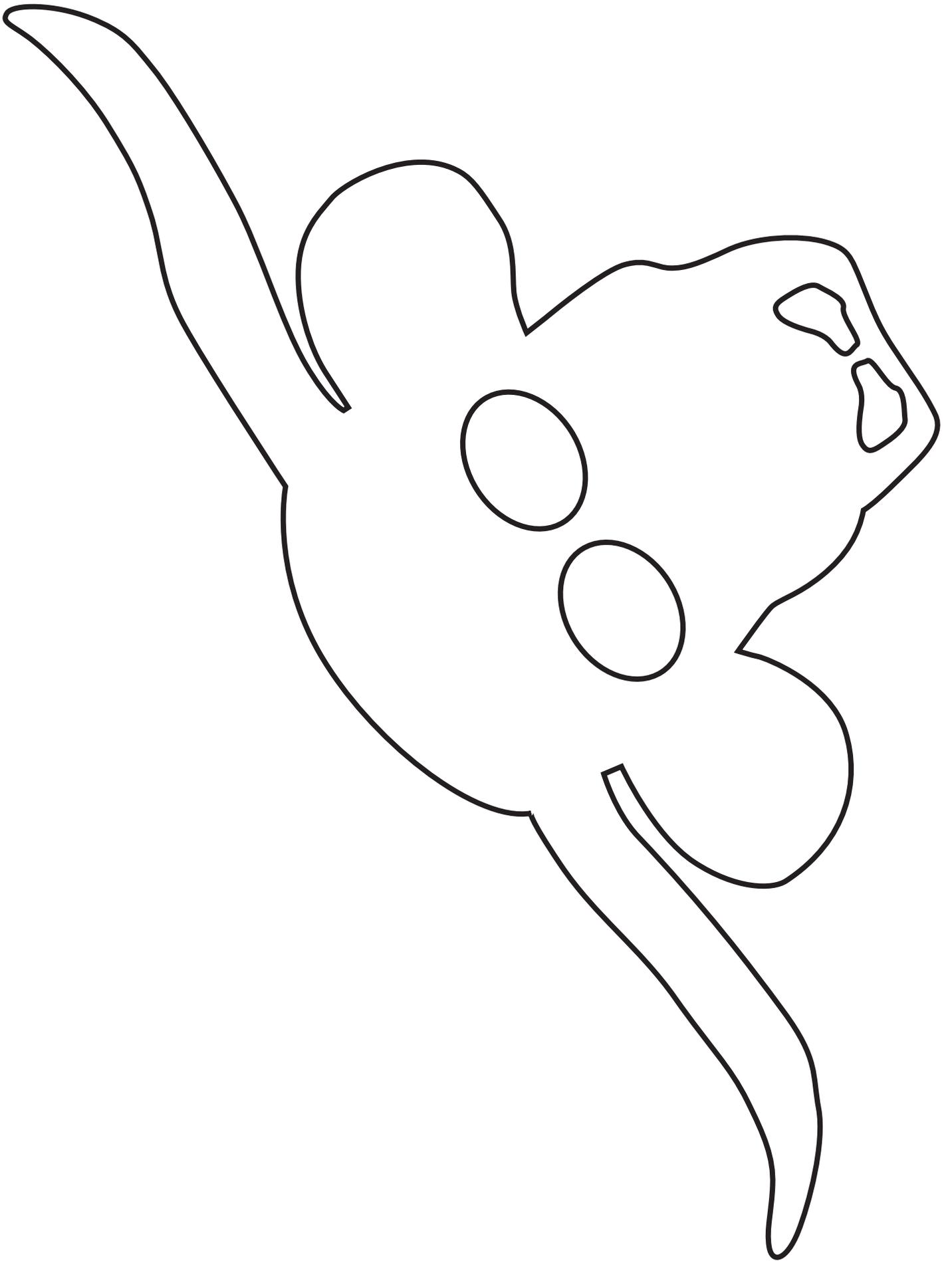
BARNYARD ANIMAL MASKS

Can you pretend to be a barnyard animal in the middle of the “rud” like the animals in the picture book, **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud**? If needed, cut out your mask and have an adult help cut eye holes. Then tape a straw or popsicle stick on the back of the mask. When we read the story for the second time today, you will be asked to use your mask to act like your animal! We will color our animals at the craft table once story time is done.









RAISING READERS STORY HOUR:

An Event Overview for Local Doctors and Other Healthcare Providers

Date:

Time:

Location:

Thank you for considering a visit to our library to promote Raising Readers to our families and to celebrate Raising Readers' 15th anniversary! Here is an outline of what will happen at the event:

The Book

The featured book at our event will be **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud** by Lynn Plourde and illustrated by John Schoenherr (Down East Books), which is in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**. This anthology is the upcoming selection for five-year-olds. Let Raising Readers know if you need a copy to review.

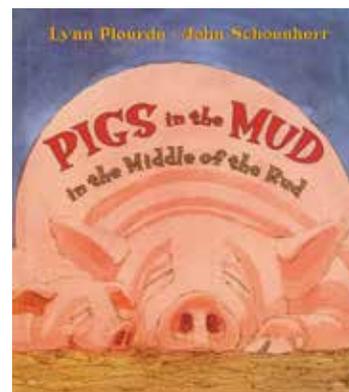
Preparation

- Look over the Raising Readers Talking Points (attached) and prepare to talk for five minutes or less about why you recommend reading aloud to children every day from birth.
- Get familiar with the book, **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud** by Lynn Plourde and illustrated by John Schoenherr (Down East Books). Let me know if you would like to read it aloud or whether you prefer that I do so.
- Think about what you might wear to the event that makes families "see" you as a doctor. Raising Readers tells us that wearing a stethoscope, for example, makes you instantly recognizable to families.
- Send me a short bio that will help me introduce you.

The Event

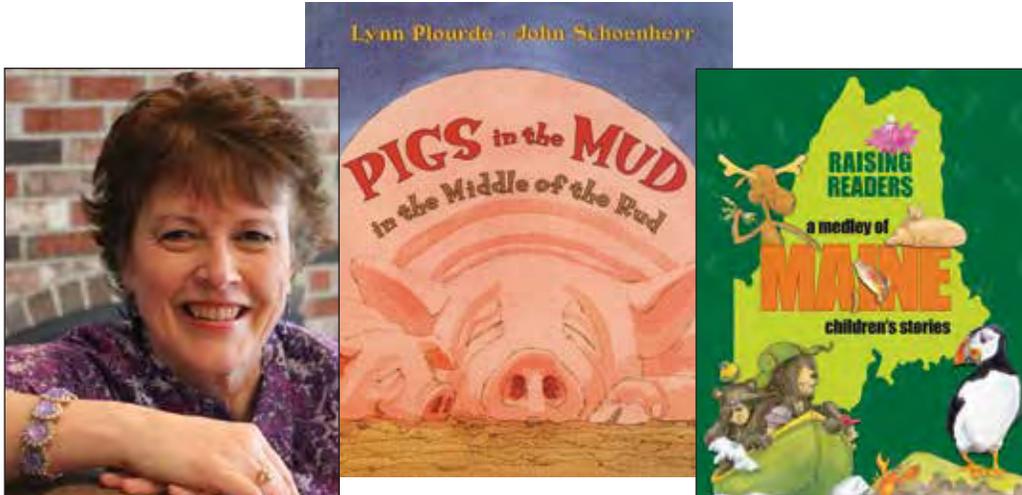
This is what we have planned for the event:

- There will be a craft table laid out with scissors, tape, crayons, and barnyard masks for an activity after the read aloud.
- I will introduce you and you will give your own rendition of the Raising Readers Talking Points.
- I will explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology that is being given to all Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If we are reading the stand-alone **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud**, I will explain that the book is part of the anthology and show the anthology.
- You or I will read **Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud** the first time. I will hold a second reading where I will invite the kids with their barnyard masks to help us act out the story.
- I will invite parents to ask you and library staff about Raising Readers and reading aloud to children.
- I will prompt the craft activity.



Thank you so much for participating with our library as we celebrate Raising Readers' 15th Anniversary!

RAISING READERS



STORY HOUR

AND ACTIVITY

Celebrating 15 years and over 2.3 million books given to Maine children!



Date:

Time:

Location:



RAISING READERS

STORY HOUR KIT

A paper chain activity to be used with a read aloud of **The Winter Visitors** by Karel Hayes (Down East Books) featured in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.





ABOUT RAISING READERS

It's a fact that reading to young children makes them smarter, healthier, and better prepared for life. It is this simple truth that led Maine's Libra Foundation to create **Raising Readers**, a statewide program that gives books—free of charge—to all Maine children between the ages of birth and five at well-child healthcare visits.

Through the simple act of placing books in children's hands, **Raising Readers** reinforces the powerful understanding that literacy begins well before children enter kindergarten. By integrating books into birth and primary care, the program also supports the well-documented link between health and literacy.

More info:

www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/

ABOUT THE KIT

This Story Hour Kit was created to celebrate the publication of Raising Readers' tenth and last anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**.



This anthology of five stories by Maine authors and illustrators published by Down East Books will be given to all Maine libraries and distributed statewide to five-year-olds at their well-child healthcare visit for a year. The kit also serves as a celebration of Raising Readers' fifteenth anniversary and its message about supporting the importance of reading aloud to children from birth.

Raising Readers encourages partnering with one of your community's doctors or other healthcare providers on a story hour featuring one of the books in this year's anthology as a way to help us celebrate our program's anniversary and the importance of early literacy. They could talk about Raising Readers and read the featured book aloud. We have included tips for involving a doctor or healthcare provider in a story hour at the end of this kit; however, doing so is not expected or required—just have fun using this kit to create a story hour that you know your community would appreciate and enjoy!

Note: The Winter Visitors, being primarily wordless, is a book best read aloud by the most seasoned story hour veterans.

The activity in this kit (**found on page 8**) invites children to make a paper chain to decorate for their reading space just like the bears decorate the special cottage during their winter festivities.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Winter Visitors

By Karel Hayes

Published by Down East Books

ISBN-13: 9780892727506

Age range: 4 - 8 Years

This charming story reveals what happens at a vacation cottage once its summer visitors have left for the winter. With fewer than two dozen words, the story is told primarily in pictures. Children and adults will enjoy witnessing the activities of a bear family that takes up residence in the empty camp.



The book can be found at your library or within the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories.** (Down East Books)
Look for more picture books by Karel Hayes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

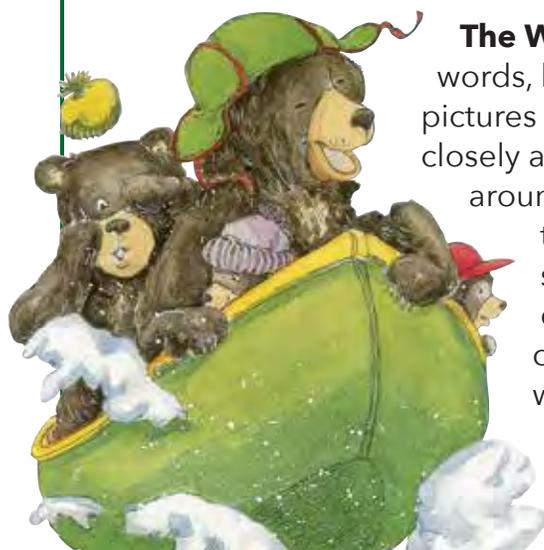


Karel Hayes is the best-selling creator of the "Visitors" series, which includes **The Winter Visitors, The Summer Visitors, The Christmas Visitors,** and **The Autumn Visitors.**

Once, when Karel Hayes arrived to open her summer cottage, she found a whole family of mice had spent the winter in her linen drawer! The mice had made a cozy home, complete with a pile of nuts in their "dining room."

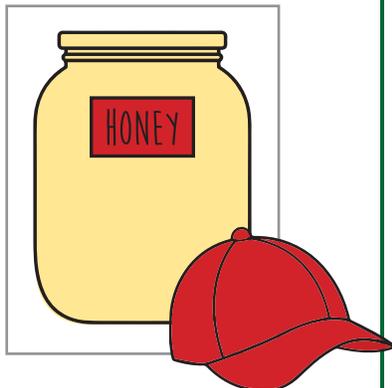
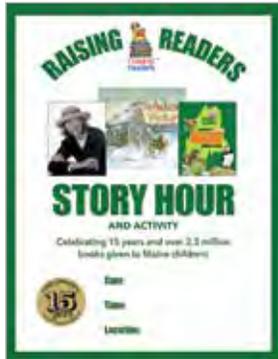
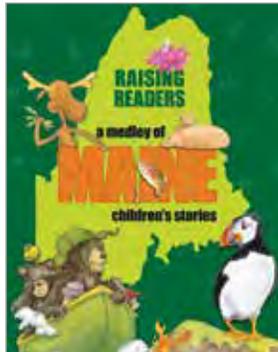
The idea for **The Winter Visitors** came from the adventure of those mice. Karel thought a bear family might be able to enjoy every of a Maine summer cottage (not just a single drawer) and could even clean up after themselves. Of course, hints of what happened in a room are always left behind, such as a read hat, a girl's ribbons, a honey jar, and a book about bears! Look for these items as you read **The Winter Visitors.**

To create a book, authors and illustrators think about their own lifetime of stories and experiences. Ever since Karel started coming to Maine as a child, the rocky coastline, seaside villages, and pine trees have filled her memories, her imagination, and her pictures. The girl who liked to paint became an artist whose work has appeared in many children's books and galleries. Karel lives in Center Harbor, New Hampshire.



The Winter Visitors has very few words, but it is filled with detailed pictures that tell many stories. Look closely at the pictures and tell those around you what you see. Let them tell you what they see. There is so much to discover! If you enjoy **The Winter Visitors,** check out Karel's other books where the bear family returns to have more adventures.

PREPARING FOR THE STORY HOUR



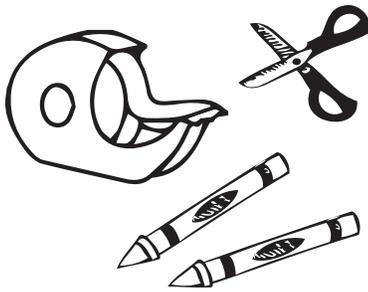
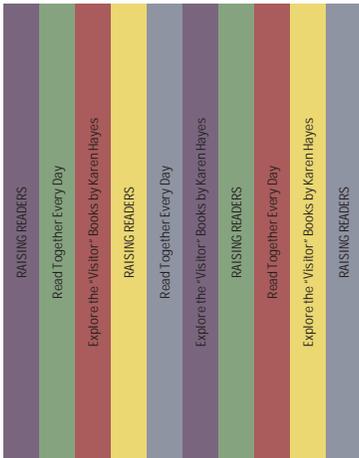
WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- 1 Locate a copy of the anthology **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** (donated to Maine libraries by Raising Readers) or **The Winter Visitors** by Karel Hayes (Down East Books).
- 2 Copy and display the Story Hour Poster (**found on page 11**) in this kit, hand it out in your community, post it on social media, and include it in a display. List the event in newsletters and online calendars with copy such as:

Join us for a Raising Readers Story Hour to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the program that has given over two million books to Maine children at their well-child visits! (Use next sentence if you partner with a doctor or healthcare provider on this story hour). _____ (name) will be joining us to tell us more about the program and why reading aloud to children from birth is so important. Together we will be reading **The Winter Visitors** by Karel Hayes (Down East Books) and creating decorative paper chains.

- 3 Consider a display of fiction and nonfiction books about bears or "visitors" to inspire children to borrow books with themes similar to those in **The Winter Visitors**. Feature other books in the Karel Hayes "visitor" series, including **The Summer Visitors**, **The Christmas Visitors**, and **The Autumn Visitors**.
- 4 Consider incorporating a snack into your story hour. Be sure to check your library's policy about food at programs and be considerate of children with food allergies. Since the bears' favorite treat is honey, think about purchasing honey sticks or honey wheat pretzels to share with participants. Put the snack in a clear jar marked "Honey" using the image on page 46 of the anthology as inspiration.
- 5 Consider finding or buying one or more inexpensive red baseball hats to hide in your story hour area to remind children of the red cap that is lost and found in the story.

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - ONE WEEK OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT:



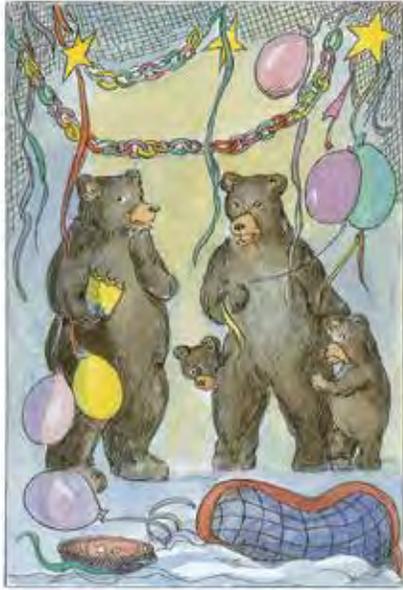
- 1 Print out **The Winter Visitors** paper chain sheet (**found on page 9**) in this kit on regular paper (2 or more sheets for each anticipated participant.) Consider whether you will print the sheets on different colors of paper or if you will print them on a color printer. You can also print them on white paper and have kids color them; be aware that this option will take more time!
- 2 Decide whether or not you want to pre-cut the color strips on the paper chain sheet; consider leaving some sheets uncut for families to take home.
- 3 Remind everyone in your network about the upcoming Raising Readers Story Hour event.
- 4 Gather child-safe scissors, crayons and clear tape (for all to share).

WHAT YOU MIGHT DO - THE DAY OF THE EVENT

Getting Ready

- Place crayons, scissors, paper chain strips (if you have pre-cut them), and paper chain sheet on your craft table for all to share.
- Hide your red cap(s) if you have purchased any.
- Get your honey jar ready so families can take a snack home and honey sticks near one another could lead to unexpected sticky eating, so consider displaying the snacks at the very end!





Read Aloud & Activity

- Share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Raising Readers Talking Points (**found on page 7**). If you have a guest doctor or other healthcare provider, introduce him or her and have him or her share some thoughts about Raising Readers using the Talking Points; at the end of the story hour (before crafting), you can ask families if they have any questions about the program for the guest doctor or other healthcare provider.
- Explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology being given to Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If you read from the stand-alone **The Winter Visitors**, explain that the book is part of the anthology and show participants a copy of the anthology if possible.
- Read **The Winter Visitors**. As the book is mostly wordless, narrate the pictures or, in smaller groups, ask children what is happening in the pictures.
- Prompt the activity by revisiting the illustrations on pages 55-57 of the anthology. Show how the bears have made the house festive by creating paper chairs and cutting out stars. You might make the connection between the story and craft by telling families that where they read together is always a festive and happy place too! Encourage families to stop at the craft table to make paper chains to decorate the place where their family reads aloud.
- During the activity, encourage families to take extra paper chain sheets so they can add to or repair their paper chain. Additionally, you can suggest they use paper from their home art supplies or recycling bin to make the chain longer (and longer) or make new chains!

TALKING POINTS FOR RAISING READERS STORY HOURS

Celebrating 15 Years of Books for Maine's Youngest Children

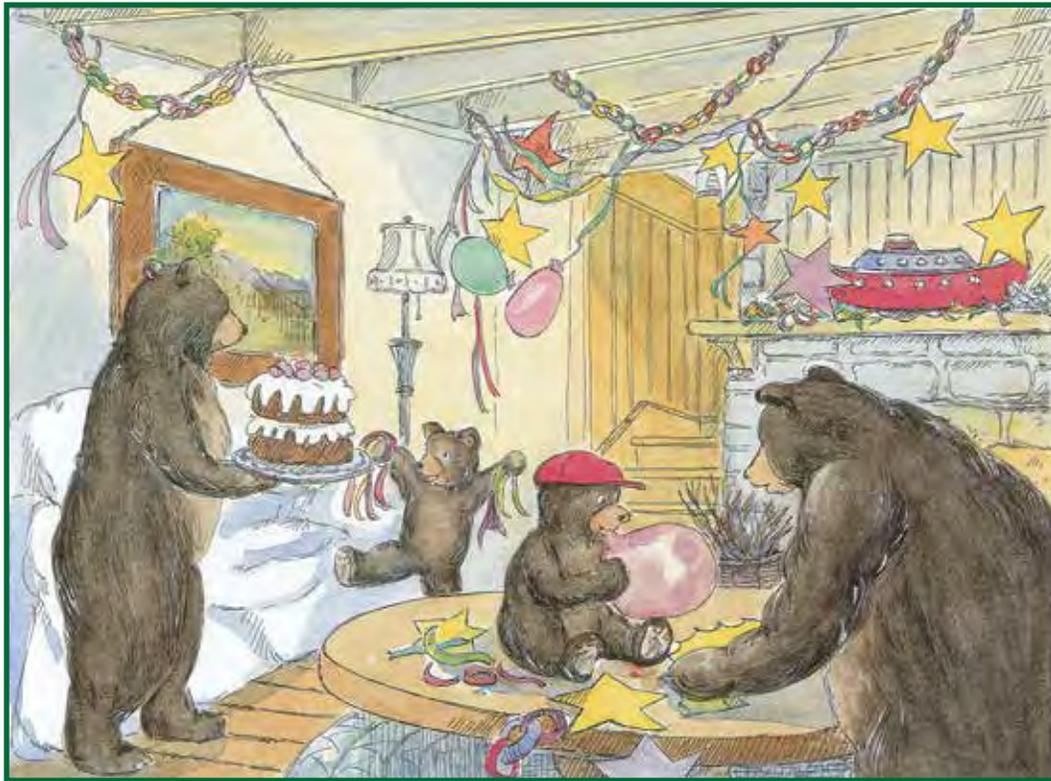
- Studies have shown that reading to young children – even for just 20 minutes a day – helps make them smarter, healthier, and more successful later in life.
- Knowing that literacy begins well before kindergarten, the Libra Foundation created the Raising Readers program in 2000 as a way to give books – for free – to *all* Maine children from birth through age five.
- Books are given to families at well-child visits and after birth, which helps reinforce the connection between health and literacy.
- All Maine hospitals and healthcare practices that see children participate in the program to ensure that every child in all 16 counties receives a collection of free high-quality, age-appropriate books before age five.
- The program is a collaboration between MaineHealth and EMHS, the two largest health systems in the state.
- Raising Readers is one-of-a-kind; it's the only statewide early literacy program in the United States.
- Now in its 15th year, Raising Readers has reached over 228,000 individual children and given out more than 2.3 million books.

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL DOCTOR OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If you decide to partner with a with a local doctor or healthcare provider for this Raising Readers Story Hour, the following are specific steps you might want to follow:

ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT

- Contact a healthcare practice that participates in Raising Readers. Visit the Raising Readers website (www.raisingreaders.org/about_us/participating_sites/) to locate a practice near you. All Maine and other healthcare providers who see children for well child care participate in the program, so you can always ask some of your regular family visitors for suggestions on who to contact. **NOTE: The Winter Visitors** should be read by a doctor or other healthcare provider with experience in performing read alouds because it does not have many words and will require interpretation of pictures.
- Contact the selected practice and ask for the “Practice Manager.” Explain that you would like to hold a story hour celebrating Raising Readers’ 15th anniversary and ask if one of the doctors or other healthcare providers would like to participate by reading the story and talking about Raising Readers. Let the Practice Manager know that you will have talking points on Raising Readers available in advance, and that you would like the doctor or other healthcare provider to do a read-aloud.
- Once a doctor has agreed to participate, share with him or her the Raising Readers Talking Points (see sidebar at left) and An Event Overview for Local Doctors or Other Healthcare Providers (**found on page 10**) to help facilitate his or her participation. Encourage the doctor or other healthcare provider to come to the event dressed in a white coat and stethoscope – this goes a long way to identifying his or her job in the eyes of a child. Ask how you should introduce him or her.



PAPER CHAINS

The bears in **The Winter Visitors** decorate the cottage with paper chains and stars. Let's make some paper chains too! Simply cut out the paper strips, loop the first into a circle, and tape it closed. Thread the next strip into the circle of the first and tape it closed. Keep going until you make a chain of paper circles. Make your chain longer by cutting out another sheet of paper strips or by making paper strips from your home art supplies or recycling bin. Consider decorating your family's reading area with your paper chain to remind you of the bears' adventures. You can even make and hang paper stars like the bears did!

RAISING READERS

Read Together Every Day

Explore the "Visitor" Books by Karen Hayes

RAISING READERS

Read Together Every Day

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RAISING READERS

Read Together Every Day

Explore the "Visitor" Books by Karen Hayes

RAISING READERS

RAISING READERS STORY HOUR:

An Event Overview for Local Doctors and Other Healthcare Providers

Date:

Time:

Location:

Thank you for considering a visit to our library to promote Raising Readers to our families and to celebrate Raising Readers' 15th anniversary! Here is an outline of what will happen at the event:

The Book

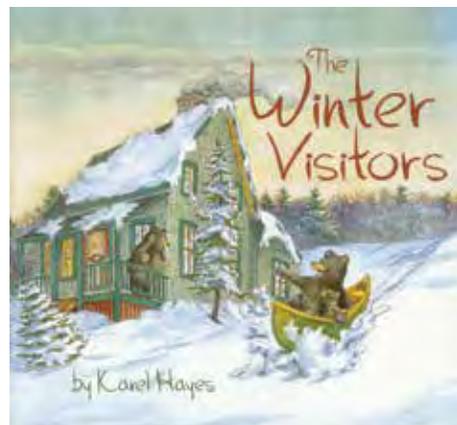
The featured book at our event will be **The Winter Visitors** by Karel Hayes (Down East Books), which is in the anthology, **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories**. This anthology is the upcoming selection for five-year-olds. Let Raising Readers know if you need a copy to review.

Preparation

- Look over the Raising Readers Talking Points (attached) and prepare to talk for five minutes or less about why you recommend reading aloud to children every day from birth.
- Get familiar with the book, **The Winter Visitors** by Karel Hayes (Down East Books). Unless you would like to, I will read the book aloud. As a mostly wordless book, it is not an easy one to share with a group of children!
- Think about what you might wear to the event that makes families "see" you as a doctor. Raising Readers tells us that wearing a stethoscope, for example, makes you instantly recognizable to families.
- Send me a short bio that will help me introduce you.

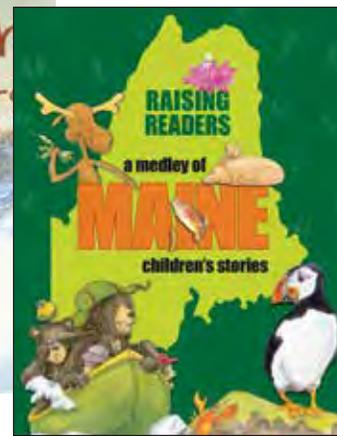
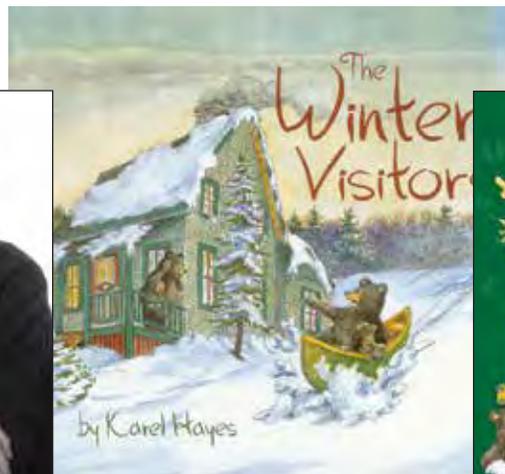
The Event

- There will be a craft table laid out with The Winter Visitors Activity Sheets, scissors, tape, and crayons for an activity after the story hour.
- I will introduce you and you will give your own rendition of the Raising Readers Talking Points.
- I will explain that **Raising Readers: A Medley of Maine Children's Stories** is the anthology that is being given to all Maine five-year-olds at their well-child visits in the coming year. If we are reading the stand-alone **The Winter Visitors**, I will explain that the book is part of the anthology and show the anthology.
- You or I will read **The Winter Visitors**.
- I will invite parents to ask you and library staff about Raising Readers and reading aloud to children.
- I will prompt the craft activity.



Thank you so much for participating with our library as we celebrate Raising Readers' 15th Anniversary!

RAISING READERS



STORY HOUR AND ACTIVITY

Celebrating 15 years and over 2.3 million
books given to Maine children!



Date:

Time:

Location: