

## **Bandit**

Karen Rostoker-Gruber  
Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008  
40 pages

**SUMMARY:** When Bandit's family moves to a new house, the cat runs away and returns to the only home he knows, but after he is brought back, he understands that the new house is now home.

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

*Bandit's Surprise* by Karen Rostoker-Gruber (due out in 2010)  
*Boomer's Big Day* by Constance W. McGeorge  
*Annabelle's Big Move* by Carla Golembe

### **WEBSITES:**

[http://www.karenrostocker-gruber.com/downloads/bandit\\_coloring\\_page.pdf](http://www.karenrostocker-gruber.com/downloads/bandit_coloring_page.pdf) (Bandit bookmarks for students to color from the author's website)

<http://www.drsofostersmith.com/pic/article.cfm?articleid=185> (tips for moving with your cat)

<http://www.nationalcatday.org/> (The website for National Cat Day, Oct. 29)

### **BOOKTALK:**

"Yo, Hairy-Legs, where are you going with my couch?" Bandit the cat realizes that this is no ordinary day when all of his familiar belongings disappear and he himself is dumped in his cat-carrier. Being in the carrier can only mean one thing, a trip to the vet – yuck! However, the car ride is too long and when his owner finally takes Bandit out of the carrier he is in a new, unfamiliar house. Bandit immediately escapes back to his own familiar house and his favorite sunny spot in the family room. But, oops, it isn't his house anymore; a new family lives there and they don't want Bandit around. Find out how Bandit handles the "mews" of his move to a new house in Bandit, by Karen Rostoker-Gruber.

**Prepared by:** Cynthia Collins ☺

## **Bark Park**

By Karen Gray Ruelle  
Peachtree Publisher, 2008  
32 pages

**SUMMARY:** Dogs of various shapes and actions meet at the park to have fun and play together.

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

*Stanley's Beauty Contest* by Linda Bailey

*Dog Day* by Sarah Hayes

*Don't Swap your Sweater for a Dog* by Katherine Applegate

*Wag a Tail* by Lois Ehlert

### **WEBSITES:**

- 1) Go Pets America( <http://www.gopetsamerica.com/> ): Go Pets America is an information resource for dog, cat, bird, small pet and horse owners.
- 2) Pets Add Life (<http://www.petsaddlife.org/>): Pets Add Life campaign is designed to demonstrate the joys and benefits of pet ownership.
- 3) USA Dog Parks (<http://www.usadogparks.com/>): Locations of Dog Parks in the United States as well as tips for enjoying your visit to a dog park.

**BOOKTALK:** Listen to this rhyme to guess what type of animal I am. "I like to chase a bird and fetch a ball for a little fun; Then bury a bone in a hole and be free to run, run , run". Yes, I am a dog. In this book, Bark Park, dogs like me love to go to the park and meet other dogs to enjoy ourselves while sniffing, yipping and running around. Poetry and rhyming words are used to describe our thoughts and actions. You can also find out what happens during doggie dreams following a day of fun in the sun at the Bark Park.

Prepared by: Angela Durham (adurham@richland2.org)

## **Bats at the Library**

Brian Lies

Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.

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

*Bats: Shadows in the Night*, Diane Ackerman

*Shadows of Night: The Hidden World of the Little Brown Bat*, Barbara Bash

*Goodnight Moon*, Margaret Wise Brown

*Stelluna*, Janelle Cannon

*Batty Riddles*, Katy Hall and Lisa Eisenberg Hall

*Library Mouse*, David Kirk

*Library Lion*, Michelle Knudson

*Bats at the Beach*, by Brian Lies

*Bats*, Betsy Maestro

*Bats!: Strange and Wonderful*, Laurence Pringle

*Wild About Books*, Judy Sierra

### **WEBSITES:**

Brain Lies Web Page

<http://www.brianlies.com/index.htm>

Bats At the Library

<http://ksbillmartinaward.wikispaces.com/Bats+at+the+Library>

This site has information about Brian Lies plus activities, crafts, photographs of various bats, a short video of bats and other links.

Bat PowerPoints

<http://animals.pppst.com/bats.html>

Free presentations in PowerPoint format.

Enchanted Learning

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/bat.shtml>

Look here for bat printouts, crafts, a quiz, and more.

Bat Quiz

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/bat.shtml>

How much do you know about bats? Test your knowledge by answering 9 True/False questions.

Bat Conservation International: All About Bats/Kidz Cave

<http://www.batcon.org/index.php/all-about-bats/kidz-cave.html>

Check out this page with “cool stuff”. Here you will find a bat mask to print, arts and crafts, games, a bat video, plus two crossword puzzles.

The Topic: Bats

<http://www.42explore.com/bats.htm>

This site contains many links to other websites for information about bats.

Lubee Bat Conservancy

<http://www.batconservancy.org/bat-activity-links-and-downloads.php>

Look for bat activities and a link to a PowerPoint presentation: Bats A to Z

Bat Jigsaw Puzzle

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/bats/puzzle1.htm>

Smartboard Lesson: Fact or Opinion: All about Bats - Grade 2

<http://exchange.smarttech.com/details.html?id=x1e03ee8cbab4495fb3d23dc77eda4475>

Bats in the Classroom: Activities Across the Curriculum

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson031.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson031.shtml)

The site features many activities to use such as puzzles, quizzes, maps, art activities, a video of the Austin Congress Bridge Bats, plans for building a Bat House, links to many other bat sites, and more.

## **BOOKTALK:**

Another normal, inky evening is here. The air is cool and calm and clear. *Can it be true? Oh, can it be? Yes! Bat Night at the library!* An open library window is just what a colony of bats have been looking for to cure their boredom. You see, the library is the favorite place for these book-loving bats. They quickly swoop through the window. Older bats look for favorite books while the younger ones don't know what to expect. However, as they explore, the young bats figure out some games to play. Soon they are making funny shadows on the wall using the overhead projector, photocopying themselves, and turning the water fountain into a splash pool. There is so much more fun, but to find out what else goes on during their visit you will have to read, *Bats at the Library!*

Prepared by: Susan Cathey  
scathey@lexington1.net

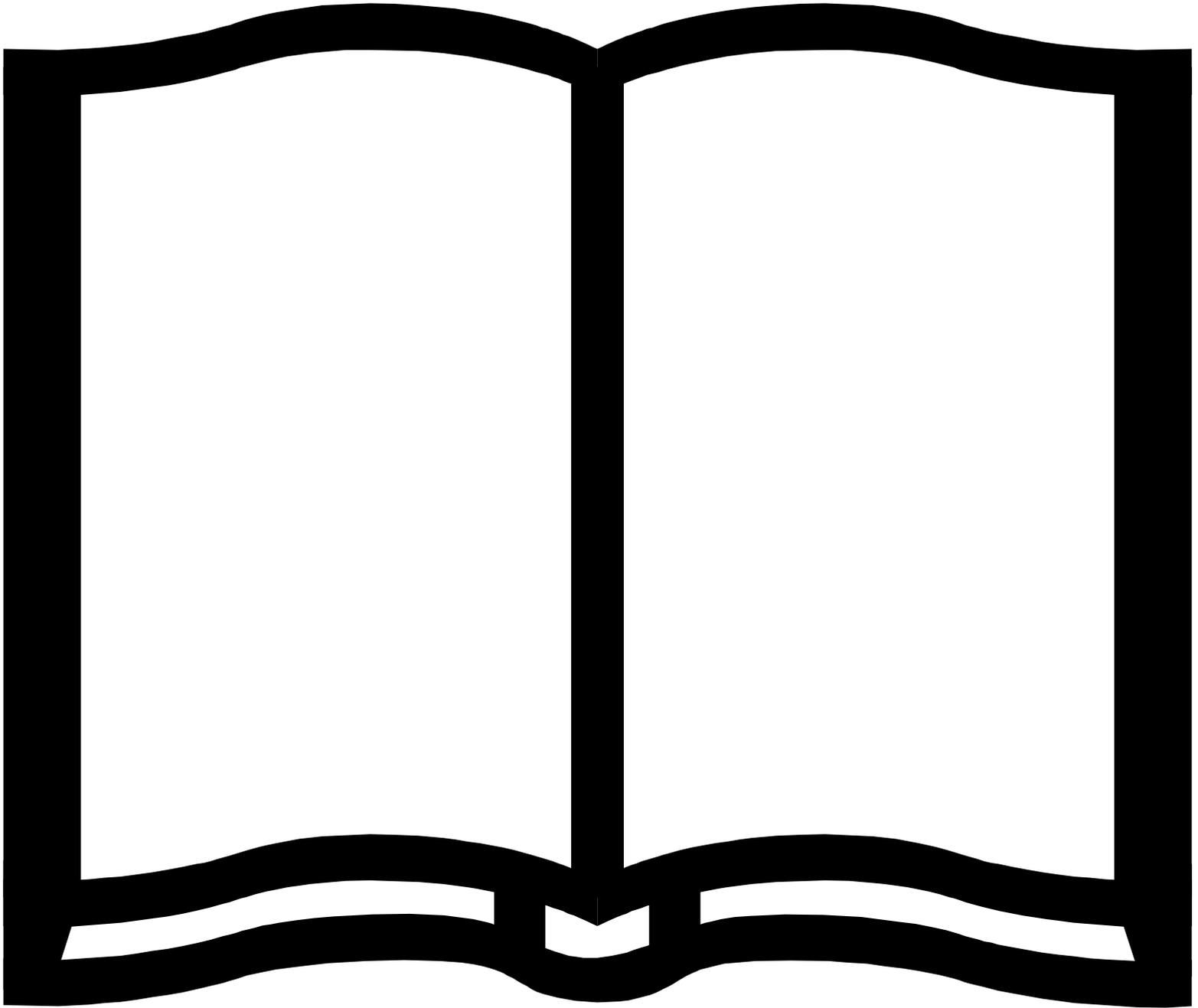
# Bats At the Library

## Word Search

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

### Word Bank

BATS BOOKS COPIER DREAM FUN GAME  
LIBRARY LISTEN MOON NIGHT READ  
SHADOWS SHELVES SKY SOAR STORYTIME  
SWOOP WINDOW WING



The bats became story book characters during storytime. If you could enter your favorite book, which character would you choose and what would you be doing? Illustrate your character on the pages of this book.

**Big Bad Bunny**  
Franny Billingsley  
Simon & Schuster, 2008  
40 Pages

**SUMMARY:**

When Baby Boo-Boo, a mouse dressed in a bunny suit, becomes lost in the forest, her mother follows the sound of her cries to locate her.

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

*Never Take a Shark to the Dentist* by Judith Barrett

*I'm Bad!* by Kate McMullan

*A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker

**WEBSITES:**

Some possible keywords to use in a web search include: bunny, picture book, mice – fiction, onomatopoeia.

<http://simonandschusterkids.com>

<http://books.Sionandschuster.net>

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

**BOOKTALK:**

At home in the Mouse House, Baby Boo-Boo gets no respect. How would you like it if your name was Baby Boo-Boo? It is humiliating and Baby Boo-Boo decides to disguise herself as a bunny and leave home. When Mama Mouse is tucking in her brood she suddenly discovers that Baby Boo-Boo has disappeared. She begins a desperate search that ultimately reveals that mouse and bunny are the same. This paves the way to tender good-nights.

This read-aloud picture book has a popular bunny theme and various elements that work together to enhance the interest of preschool-grade 2 students

Prepared by: Joyce B. Moore

[joycebmoore@yahoo.com](mailto:joycebmoore@yahoo.com)

## **The Dog Who Belonged to No One**

Amy Hest

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Lia, the hard-working daughter of two bakers who spends her days delivering bread, and a perfectly nice stray dog both live in the same town. A terrible storm brings the two together, and Lia takes the dog home where it is warm and they quickly decide they belong to one another.

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

*A Small Brown Dog with a Wet Pink Nose* by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

*Mutt Dog* by Stephen Michael King

*Buddy Unchained* by Daisy Bix

*Orville: A Dog Story* by Robert Andrew Parker

### **WEBSITES:**

Author Amy Hest website

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

Petfinder website has information about adopting any type animal.

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

Dogs deserve better website, Pennsylvania website with pictures about adopting a pet and success stories. <http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org/buddychained.html>

### **BOOKTALK:**

“Once there was a small dog with crooked ears. He belonged to no one.” The dog who belonged to no one spent his days alone and he longed for a friend. Lia, who is a wisp of a girl, works for her parents’ bakery delivering bread until a very stormy night gets her soaked and shivering. Will the two become friends or will she even see the dog on her bike ride home?

Prepared by: Louise Kay

[louise23kay@yahoo.com](mailto:louise23kay@yahoo.com)

## **Help Me, Mr. Mutt! Expert Answers for Dogs with People Problems**

Janet Stevens  
Harcourt, Inc., 2008  
56 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Mr. Mutt writes letters of advice helping other canines who have people problems, while he has his own problems with The Queen, a snooty cat who lives under his desk.

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

*Bad Kitty*, Nick Bruel

*Letters from a Desperate Dog*, Eileen Christelow

*Dogs Rule!*, Daniel Kirk

*Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School*, Mark Teague

### **WEBSITES:**

[www.suzyred.com](http://www.suzyred.com), This site has lesson plans and links for stories by title.

[www.janetstevens.com](http://www.janetstevens.com), Janet Stevens talks about her books, shows kid's art, & coloring sheets.

[www.loveyourdog.com](http://www.loveyourdog.com), This has a kid's guide to dog care.

[www.barkingbulletin.com/newsletter/2008/Q1/5/](http://www.barkingbulletin.com/newsletter/2008/Q1/5/), The AKC shares stories about dogs.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Everyone loves to give advice, and Mr. Mutt is no exception. Help Me, Mr. Mutt by Janet Stevens, is full of canines suffering with people problems. Seeking help with everything from diets to bathing, pitiful pooches write to Mr. Mutt. He doesn't disappoint with wisdom such as eating off countertops, out of the trash, and under highchairs followed by a cool drink of toilet water. Mr. Mutt finishes each letter by reminding its recipient "You are Top Dog" followed by an offensive remark aimed at The Queen, a snooty cat who lives under his desk. She lives to pester Mr. Mutt, and causes him his own problems as she threatens and insults him. Whether you prefer dogs or cats, you're sure to love this hilariously uplifting battle of wits.

Prepared by: Sherry Beaman  
sherrybeaman@yahoo.com

## The Lion's Share: A Tale of Halving Cake and Eating It, Too

Matthew McElligott  
Walker & Company, 2009  
32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Ant is honored to receive an invitation to lion's annual dinner party, but is shocked when the other guests behave rudely and then accuse her of thinking only of herself.

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

*Bean Thirteen* by Matthew McElligott

*Absolutely Not* by Matthew McElligott

*Grandpa Gazillion's Number Yard* by Laurie Keller

*The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins

*Eating Fractions* by Bruce McMillan

*One Hundred Hungry Ants* by [Elinor J Pinczes](#)

*Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners* by Laurie Keller

*How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?* by Jane Yolen

*Time to Say "Please"!* by Mo Willems

*What Do You Say, Dear?* by Sesyle Joslin

### **WEBSITES:**

The author's website provides a wealth of information and activities:

- his process in creating the illustrations:  
<http://matthewmcelligott.com/lionsshare/pictures.php>
- his plan for the design of the book:  
<http://matthewmcelligott.com/lionsshare/design.php>
- lesson plans and projects to use:  
<http://matthewmcelligott.com/lionsshare/projects.php>
- the mathematics of *The Lion's Share*:  
<http://matthewmcelligott.com/lionsshare/math.php>

Aesop's fable, the original story and the origin of the phrase "the lion's share:"

[http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Aesop/Aesops\\_Fables/The\\_Lions\\_Share\\_p1.html](http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Aesop/Aesops_Fables/The_Lions_Share_p1.html)

Ideas for teaching fractions: <http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/math/fractioncity.html>

Interactive math skill practice by grade level: includes fractions beginning at kindergarten and extending through 6<sup>th</sup> grade: <http://www.ixl.com/>

**BOOKTALK:**

Ant was pleased to receive an invitation to Lion's special dinner! What an honor to be invited to a party given by the King! Ant hoped to make a good impression so she made sure to arrive exactly on time and to use her very best table manners, but the other guests behaved like...well, like animals! When dessert was served, a beautiful cake, each of them greedily took large portions until only a crumb was left for Ant to share with their host. How embarrassing! What could she do to make up for their rudeness? Ant's generous solution gave the other guests cause to stop and think. Want to know what she did? Read *The Lion's Share: A Tale of Halving a Cake and Eating It, Too* by Matthew McElligott.

Prepared by: Alice Brice  
alice.brice@kcsdschools.net

## **Mail Harry to the Moon!**

Robie H. Harris

Little, Brown and Company, 2008

40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Harry's older brother, unhappy that the new baby is making lots of noise and getting all the attention, thinks up creative ways to get rid of him.

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

*The Day Leo Said I Hate You!* by Robie H. Harris

*Don't Forget to Come Back!* by Robie H. Harris

*My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother* by Patricia Polacco

*Julius, the Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes

*Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats

*The Pain and the Great One* by Judy Blume

*Me Too!* by Mercer Mayer

*The New Baby* by Mercer Mayer

*On Mother's Lap* by Ann Herbert Scott

*When Sophie Gets Angry -- Really, Really Angry . . .* by Molly Bang

*Tikki Tikki Tembo* by Arlene Mosel

*If You Decide to Go to the Moon* by Faith McNulty

*Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars* by Douglas Florian

### **WEBSITES:**

Robie H. Harris, Children's Book Author: <http://www.robieharris.com/index.html>

The author provides information about her life and descriptions of her work.

Michael Emberley: <http://www.michaelemerley.com/content/main.aspx>

The illustrator's website is attractive, but the information he has included about himself and his work is not related to this book.

Zoom Astronomy: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/>

This site by Enchanted Learning is full of great information about the moon, planets, comets, and more, if you are interested in pursuing the topic of space.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Everyone thinks babies are sooo cute, but they can be a real pain! If you have a baby brother or sister, you know what I mean. They get into your stuff and get all the attention. That's what happened when Harry was born. His big brother was used to a peaceful life. But that all changed, for the worse, with a screaming, annoying baby in the family. Harry ruined everything! The solution? Stick Harry in the zoo! Mail Harry to the moon! That would solve all the problems! Or would it? Find out in *Mail Harry to the Moon* by Robie Harris.

Prepared by: Alice Brice

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## **Nobunny's Perfect**

Anna Dewdney

Viking, 2008

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This book is about bunnies that have bad manners. They slurp their juice, scream and shout, forget to say "please" or "thank you," and even bite their friends. They soon are taught about good manners and then everyone is happy!

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

*Thanks a LOT, Emily Post!* by Jennifer LaRue Huget and Alexandra Boiger

*How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?* by Jane Yolen

*Emily's Everyday Manners* by Peggy Post and Cindy Post Senning

*Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners* by Laurie Keller

*Time to Say "Please!"* by Mo Willems

*Nosy Nora* by Rosemary Wells

### **WEBSITES:**

Author Anna Dewdney website, blog, activities and pictures.

[http://www.annadewdney.com/Annas\\_website/Home.html](http://www.annadewdney.com/Annas_website/Home.html)

Emily Post website with magic word game, downloadable placemat, and tips for parents.

<http://emilyseveryday.emilypost.com/>

### **BOOKTALK:**

They may grab, hit, kick, slurp, scream, shout, burp and fight but can the bunnies learn better choices to be polite and kind? Can the bunnies try to do what's right and not be rude bunnies? Do they know how to follow the rules? Can bad bunnies be good for you and give hugs instead of biting? You will need to read all of *Nobunny's Perfect* to see if a bunny is good for you.

Prepared by: Louise Kay

[louise23kay@yahoo.com](mailto:louise23kay@yahoo.com)

## **Owney: The Mail-Pouch Pooch**

By Mona Kerby

Lynne Barasch, illustrator

Farrar, Straus and Giroux Publisher, 2008

40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Owney, a stray terrier puppy, becomes a resident of the Albany Post Office and eventually delivers the mail to people all over the world.

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

*The Further Adventures of a Lucky Dog: Owney, U.S. Rail Mail Mascot* by Dirk Wales

*Any Friend of Owney's* by Carl L. Biemiller (<http://www.biemiller.com/owney1.htm> )

*Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express* by Marlene Tang Brill

*Horse Heroes: true stories of amazing horses* by Kate Petty

### **WEBSITES:**

- 1) National Postal Museum ([http://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/2c1f\\_owney.html](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/2c1f_owney.html)): The Smithsonian National Postal Museum has video and background information about Owney, Mascot of the Railway Mail Service.
- 2) Roadside Pet Cemetery (<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/pet/owney.html>): Summary of his mail service, a stuffed image of him, and directions to the National Postal Museum.
- 3) Owney on Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyioQIIIDeE>) : A videoclip of how Owney delivered mail during the 1900s.

### **BOOKTALK:**

"Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds" is the slogan of the postal carriers. Mail has been delivered by people, horses and dogs...Yes, I said dogs, too. In 1888, Owney was adopted by the Albany Post Office. Soon, he was delivering mail in Albany and throughout the world. His story allows readers to hear how animals have helped humans. The best part is a photo of Owney at the end of the story. An unforgettable and realistic hero story indeed!

Prepared by: Angela Durham  
adurham@richland2.org

**The Pout-Pout Fish**  
by Deborah Diesen  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008  
32 pages

**SUMMARY:**

The Pout-Pout Fish is convinced that his depressing expression is also his fate until a beautiful stranger changes everything.

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

*Big Al*, Andrew Clements

*Fabulous Fishes*, Susan Stockdale

*Fish Eyes*, Lois Ehlert

*Fish Faces*, Norbert Wu

*Hooray for Fish!* Lucy Cousins

*Sea Creatures: A Squirmy, Scary, Prickly Pop-Up*, Sally Hewitt

*A Swim through the Sea*, Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini

**WEBSITES:**

**Deborah Diesen**

- <http://www.deborahdiesen.com/index.htm>

A biography, downloadable Pout-Pout Fish activity sheets, an origami fortune teller (cootie-catcher”), and a finger play.

- <http://us.macmillan.com/author/deborahdiesen>

Click on “Bonus” for downloadable fish masks and mini book trailers.

- <http://jumpingthecandlestick.blogspot.com>

Deborah Diesen’s blog

**Dan Hanna**

- <http://www.bluebellylizard.com/>

Artwork, mini-movies, and a biography.

North Carolina Aquarium’s “Show Us Your Fish Face” Contest

- <http://www.showusyourfishface.com>

Reef Ball Foundation’s website with many links for coral reef and ocean study.

- <http://www.reefball.org/kids/index.html>

**BOOKTALK:**

BLUB—BLUUB—BLUUUUB!

The unhappy Pout-Pout Fish never smiles. In fact, he doesn’t even think he can smile. His ocean friends beg him to try and change his depressing expression but he just keeps, “spreading the drearie-wearies all over the place.”

BLUB—BLUUB—BLUUUUB!

Then, one day, a beautiful silver stranger changes the drearie-wearies into cheery-cheeries—

SMOOCH—SMOOOCH—SMOOOOOCH!

## **Read All About It**

Laura Bush and Jenna Bush

Harper Collins, 2008

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Tyrone likes everything about school except reading, until he and his classmates are swept into a mysterious adventure during the class story hour.

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

*I hate reading! : How to get through 20 minutes of reading a day without really reading*  
by Arthur Bacon

*The Library Dragon* by Carmen Agra Deedy

*Edward and the Pirates* by David McPhail

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/parents/gamesandcontests/features/readallaboutit/default.aspx> The Harper Collins website for this book, featuring a downloadable event kit, a video greeting from Laura and Jenna Bush, a slideshow of the making of the book, and other resources.

<http://files.harpercollins.com/PDF/ReadingGuides/0061560758.pdf> A Reading Guide for the book.

### **BOOKTALK:**

“Books are SO last year.” At least that’s what Tyrone told his teacher, Miss Libro, when she asked him for his favorite book. Tyrone is the self-professed ruler of Good Day Elementary, and it’s not that he despises books, he just doesn’t prefer them. Every day when Miss Libro reads aloud to the class, Tyrone finds ways to use his time more “wisely”, by drawing on his shoes, or building paper spaceships that he launches into orbit.

However, one fateful day, Tyrone’s whole world turned upside down when he realized that he actually LIKED story hour and the characters he met in the books his teacher read. When one of the characters goes missing, Tyrone and his posse set out to solve the mystery. Where did they find their missing porker? Read the book Read All About It by Laura and Jenna Bush to find out.

**Prepared by:** Cynthia Collins  
[ccollins@fsd1.org](mailto:ccollins@fsd1.org)

## **Ron's Big Mission**

Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden

Dutton Children's Books, 2009

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Young Ron McNair loves his public library, but courageously stands up for the right to check out books in 1950's segregated South Carolina.

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

*Finding Lincoln*, Ann Malaspina

*Amelia Earhart: Legend of the Lost Aviator*, Shelley Tanaka

*Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-ins*, Elizabeth Kennedy

*On the Wings of Heroes*, Richard Peck

### **WEBSITES:**

[www.jsc.nasa.gov](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov), You'll find Ron McNair's biography.

[www.space.about.com](http://www.space.about.com), You'll find biographies of astronauts, pictures of space, etc.

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov), This site has videos and pictures of space, kid's games, etc.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Going to the library is something many of us take for granted. We can come and go as we please, checking out whatever books we want. Nine-year-old Ron is the Lake City Public Library's best customer. He spends a lot of time reading books about airplanes and flight. However, Ron is growing up in South Carolina in the 1950's. This means he can look at books in the library, but he isn't allowed to check them out because of his skin color. Ron's Big Mission by Rose Blue describes a young boy's courage as he peacefully fights for his right to own a library card. Ron, one boy, desegregates his town library. This is the first giant step for mankind by Ron McNair, who grows up to be a scientist and astronaut.

Prepared by: Sherry Beaman

sherrybeaman@yahoo.com

## **Seabiscuit the Wonder Horse**

Meghan McCarthy  
Simon & Schuster, 2008  
40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

During the depths of the Great Depression, Seabiscuit stole the hearts of Americans with his common appearance and non-assuming manner. This is a true story of Seabiscuit's rise to greatness and the people who helped him get there.

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

*Show Dog*, Megan McCarthy

*City Hawk*, Megan McCarthy

*Fritz and the Beautiful Horses*, Jan Brett

*Winter's Gift*, Jane Monroe Donovan

*I Wonder Why Horses Wear Shoes: And Other Questions About Horses*, Jackie Gaff

*Race Horses*, Michael Sandler

### **WEBSITES:**

Author Meghan McCarthy's official website,

<http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/homepage.htm>.

From Nag to Riches: The Story of Seabiscuit,

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/07/0728\\_030728\\_seabiscuit.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/07/0728_030728_seabiscuit.html)

Seabiscuit - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seabiscuit>

Coloring Book Pages - Seabiscuit, <http://horseracing.about.com/library/kids/nncb8.htm>

Seabiscuit - coloring pages and activities, [http://www.meghan-](http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/seabiscuit_coloringpages.html)

[mccarthy.com/seabiscuit\\_coloringpages.html](http://www.meghan-mccarthy.com/seabiscuit_coloringpages.html)

Seabiscuit vs. War Admiral - 1938 Match Race - 2 min 10 sec video,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVT2MPNCqg> or

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/video/WVT2MPNCqgM-seabiscuit-vs-war-admiral-1938.aspx> or

<http://vodpod.com/watch/553054-seabiscuit-vs-war-admiral-1938-match-race>

### **BOOKTALK:**

Once there was a racehorse named Seabiscuit that loved to eat and sleep but hated to run. And he was always losing. Who would want a racehorse like that? A man named Charles Howard did, and a jockey called Red, and even a trainer who understood horses better than people. Read Seabiscuit the Wonder Horse by Meghan McCarthy to learn the true story of how these three men helped turn a loser into a champion.

Prepared by:

Miriam Ash-Jones

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Skunkdog  
Emily Jenkins  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008  
32 pages

**SUMMARY:**

Dumpling, a lonely dog with no sense of smell, moves with her family to the country and makes a new friend who takes some getting used to.

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

*Sugar Would Not Eat It*, Emily Jenkins

*That New Animal*, Emily Jenkins

*Sassafras*, Audrey Penn

*Skunks*, Adrienne Mason

*There's a Skunk in My Bunk: Helping Children Learn Tolerance*, Joseph T. McCann

*A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems*, Deborah Ruddell

*Skunks!*, David T. Greenberg

**WEBSITES:**

Emily Jenkins - <http://www.emilyjenkins.com>

Skunks, Skunk Pictures, Skunk Facts -

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/skunk.html>

Skunk Website at Naturescapes - <http://www.eduscapes.com/nature/skunk>.

Humane Wildlife Control – Skunk Facts and Activities for Kids,

[http://www.humanewildlifecontrol.com/pdf/kids\\_skunks.pdf](http://www.humanewildlifecontrol.com/pdf/kids_skunks.pdf).

Skunks: Fun and Games for Kids -

<http://www.exotic-mammals.com/html/skunkstufforkids.htm>.

Dog Crafts for Kids - [http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/dog\\_crafts.html](http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/dog_crafts.html).

**BOOKTALK:**

Dumpling has a useless nose. Because she can't smell anything, she doesn't relate to other dogs. Dumpling is lonely and has no dog friends. One day a skunk sprays her – no problem for Dumpling, who wants to make the skunk her friend. But what about her family? To find out how everyone deals with this smelly situation read Skunkdog by Emily Jenkins.

Prepared by: Miriam Ash-Jones

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**Hi! My name is Sam.  
Draw what you need to take care of me.**



## **Turtle's Penguin Day**

Valeri Gorbachev

Alfred A. Knopf, 2008

30 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

After Father Turtle reads his son a book about penguins, Little Turtle decides he will dress and act like a penguin when he goes to school the next day. The idea catches on and the entire class decides to have a penguin day.

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

*About Penguins: A Guide for Children*, Cathryn P. Sill  
*Five Little Penguins Slipping on the Ice*, Steve Metzger  
*Hide and Seek Penguins*, Fiona Watt

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/penguins.shtml>

This website offers printouts and activities about penguins.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/classroom/K1/penguins.shtml>

This website offers a scavenger hunt about penguins using the Little Explorers Online Picture Dictionary.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Little Turtle has a wonderful imagination. After Father Turtle reads a bedtime story about penguins, Little Turtle dreams he is a penguin. The next day he creates his own penguin costume and goes to school. When he gets to school, his classmates are intrigued by Little Turtle's imaginative play. The idea catches on, and the whole class pretends to be penguins. What a fun day they have!

Prepared by: Debbie Lindsay

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# **Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival**

Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery  
Walker Books for Young Children, c2008  
32 pages

**SUMMARY:** This is the true story of Bobbie the dog and Bob Cat, two pets who bonded together and were able to survive the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

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

*Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle* by Brian Dennis

*Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends* by Carol Buckley

*Tiger Pups* by Tom and Allie Harvey

*Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned To Swim Again* by Juliana Hatkoff

*Molly the Pony: A True Story* by Pam Kaster

*Saving Cinnamon: The Amazing True Story of a Missing Military Puppy and the Desperate Mission to Bring Her Home* by Christine Sullivan

*Knut: How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World* by Juliana Hatkoff

## **WEBSITES:**

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

Authors' official website. You can download a coloring page of the two Bobbies under "Links and Extras."

<http://www.bestfriends.org/>

Best Friends Animal Society in Utah (who took in the two Bobbies) runs the nation's largest animal sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals.

<http://www.weather.gov/om/brochures/owlie-hurricane.pdf>

Download and print a 7-page coloring booklet on hurricanes and preparedness. Includes a quiz.

<http://www.fema.gov/kids/pets.htm>

Learn how to take care of pets during a natural disaster.

## **BOOKTALK:**

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina was headed towards the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Many people fled the city or went to shelters to escape the storm. Unfortunately, at that time shelters would only take in people...not animals...so many pets were left behind to fend for themselves. Two Bobbies: the True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival is about two friends, a dog and a cat, both without tails, who wandered the dangerous streets together for 4 months after the hurricane, searching for food and water. After they were finally rescued, they continued to be inseparable...and a secret was discovered that made the survival of the two Bobbies even more amazing. This story by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery is one that you won't soon forget.

Prepared by: Karen Hoover  
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## **Wangari's Trees of Peace: a True Story from Africa**

Jeanette Winter

Harcourt, 2008

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This is the story of Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Prize-winning environmentalist who, shocked to see entire forests being cut down in her native country of Kenya, decides to take action, beginning with the planting of nine seedlings in her own backyard.

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

*Planting the Trees of Kenya*, Claire A. Nivola

*The Giving Tree*, Shel Silverstein

*The Great Kapok Tree*, Lynne Cherry

*Be a Friend to Trees*, Patricia Lauber

*The Lorax*, Dr. Seuss

*Tell Me, Tree*, Gail Gibbons

*The Tree*, Judy Hindley

*A Tree is Nice*, Janice May Udry

*Our Tree Named Steve*, Alan Zweibel

*The Librarian of Basra*, Jeanette Winter

*Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book*, Tom Feelings

*Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book*, Tom Feelings

### **WEBSITES:**

Teach Using Wangari's Trees of Peace

[http://primaryschool.suite101.com/article.cfm/teach\\_using\\_wangaris\\_trees\\_of\\_peace](http://primaryschool.suite101.com/article.cfm/teach_using_wangaris_trees_of_peace)

Look here for lesson ideas and links to use with this book.

SimplyScience Blog

<http://simplyscience.wordpress.com/2009/02/18/cover-it-with-green/>

This is an easy science lesson, Cover It with Green, using *Wangari's Trees of Peace*.

Wangari's Trees of Peace

<http://childrenschoiceaward.wikispaces.com/Wangari's+Trees+of+Peace>

This site includes activities and other web links related to this title.

National Geographic Kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Places/Find/Kenya?source=pincl>

Colorful site with facts and photos of Kenya

Trees are Terrific...Travels with Pierre

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/trees1/flash/02.html>

This site is designed to help young children (5–8 years of age) gain an appreciation of trees, observe trees in their everyday lives and develop an interest in learning more about trees. This is presented in an animated format.

Alfred Nobel's Life and Work - for Gradeschoolers

[http://nobelprize.org/educational\\_games/nobelprize\\_info/gradeschool.html](http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/nobelprize_info/gradeschool.html)

Read information about the life of Alfred Nobel and how the Nobel Prize began.

Center School District SMART Board Templates

<http://www1.center.k12.mo.us/edtECH/SB/templates.htm>

This is a very simple Smart Board lesson on parts of a tree. Go to the site, then scroll down to K-2 Templates, Parts of a Tree.

Design a Commemorative Stamp

[http://www.digitalpencil.org/Projects\\_AllGrades/PostageStampDesign/PostageStampPORad.aspx](http://www.digitalpencil.org/Projects_AllGrades/PostageStampDesign/PostageStampPORad.aspx)

Use this site to design a stamp to feature accomplishments of Wangari Maathai, Earth Day, etc.

Village Volunteers - A Tree Grows in Kenya: the Wangari Maathai Story

<http://www.villagevolunteers.org/PDFs/Travel%20Documents/Projects%20Library/PlayWangari%20Maathai.pdf>

This is a play/readers theater about the life of Wangari Maathai to use with your students.

Wangari Maathai – Planting Trees for our Children’s Future

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcP8XJUQcrY&NR=1>

View an interview with Wangari Maathai that is approximately 3 minutes in which she explains the importance of planting trees in Kenya.

## **BOOKTALK:**

Growing up in the shadow of Mount Kenya in Africa, Wangari is surrounded by an umbrella of green trees. The trees protect the birds, provide firewood to the women of the village and help keep the soil rich for the sweet potatoes, sugarcane and maize Wangari helps to harvest. She was a very smart student and won a scholarship to study in America. Six years later, when her studies were over, she returned to her home. Wangari is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. She decides to do something and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard. And as they grow, so do her plans. To find out if her plans and determination work, read *Wangari’s Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter.

Prepared by: Susan Cathey

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# Word Scramble

## Wangari's Trees of Peace

**Unscramble the words below:**

1. eknya\_\_\_\_\_

2. trsee\_\_\_\_\_

3. prcos\_\_\_\_\_

4. sgiledne\_\_\_\_\_

5. agawinr\_\_\_\_\_

6. thear\_\_\_\_\_

7. icfraa\_\_\_\_\_

8. napl\_\_\_\_\_

9. orfediwo\_\_\_\_\_

10. ltnpa\_\_\_\_\_

11. sclooh\_\_\_\_\_

12. bdsri\_\_\_\_\_

# Word Scramble

## Answer Key

### Wangari's Trees of Peace

1. eknya is Kenya.
2. trsee is trees.
3. prcos is crops.
4. sgiledne is seedling.
5. agawinr is Wangari.
6. thear is Earth.
7. lcfraa is Africa.
8. napl is plan.
9. orfediwo is firewood.
10. ltnpa is plant.
11. sclooh is school.
12. bdsri is birds.

## **Ideas to use with Wangari's Trees of Peace**

**Learn some words of the people of Kenya. Swahili is Kenya's official language.**

Hello

Jambo (JAHM-boh)

Thank you

Asante (ah-SAHN-teh)

Goodby

Kwaheri (kwah-HAIR-ree)

Cool!

Poa! (POH-ah)

I'm fine

Nzuri (moo-ZOO-ree)

Welcome

Karibu (kah-ree-boo)

## **What Bluebirds Do**

Pamela F. Kirby  
Boyd's Mills Press, 2009  
48 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This is a non-fiction book about bluebirds. It has wonderful pictures and easy-to-understand information that will intrigue children. Details include the birds' eating and mating habits. It discusses the homes they choose and how they raise their young.

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

*Bluebird's Nest*, Dorothea Deprisco  
*100 Things You Should Know About Birds*, Jinny Johnson  
*About Birds: A Guide for Children*, Cathryn P. Sill

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/birds.shtml>

This website offers printouts and activities about birds.

<http://www.math.sunysb.edu/~tony/birds/>

This website offers pictures of many birds and allows the user to hear the bird's call.

### **BOOKTALK:**

This enjoyable book follows the life of a pair of bluebirds who build a nest and raise their young. Detailed descriptions of the birds' appearance and their habits are given. Many beautiful photographs are included as well. The book chronicles the birds' lives as they build their nest and raise their young chicks. It is a wonderful book for children who are interested in nature.

Prepared by: Debbie Lindsay  
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## **A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk**

Deborah Ruddell  
Simon & Schuster, 2009  
33 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Twenty-two lighthearted and beautifully illustrated poems about forest animals.

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

*Today at Bluebird Café: A Branchful of Birds* by Deborah Ruddell

*Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors* by Joyce Sidman

*Tadpole Rex* by Kurt Cyrus

*Never Take a Shark to the Dentist: and Other Things Not to Do* by Judith Barrett.

### **WEBSITES:**

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

[www.kids.simonandschuster.com](http://www.kids.simonandschuster.com)

[www.books.simonandschuster.net](http://www.books.simonandschuster.net)

### **BOOKTALK:**

This book of animal poetry carries the reader through four seasons in the forest. There are twenty-two poems about forest animals which include an overachieving beaver, a race-winning snail and a wild turkey's comments on his portrait. There is even a pampered squirrel spa which is sure to bring giggles. The poems and artwork create scenarios that will amuse children while incorporating basic zoological facts.

Prepared by: Joyce B. Moore

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