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Fandangle

Magazine



Fandangle Magazine

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Nancy A. Cavanaugh
14 Schult Street
Keene, NH 03431
603-357-5359

*Fandangle Magazine is an
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Editorial Guidelines

We are always looking for new writers and illustrators. Find the full editorial guidelines at <http://www.fandanglemagazine.com/guidelines.html>.

Suggestions

Please send comments and suggestions to editor@fandanglemagazine.com with 'Suggestions' in the subject line.

On the Cover

A great way to learn about our families and history is by visiting graveyards and looking at the tombstones then taking home rubbings we've made. Kim Sponaule has captured this moment perfectly with this month's cover art.

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From the Editor

This month's theme of exploring American history has prompted the wonderful writers and illustrators to write some really interesting stories. I hope you enjoy learning about gravestone rubbings, Greenfield Village, war codes and all the other great.

The theme, along with a nudge from a distant cousin in Poland, has also rejuvenated my interest in my family tree. I had done a lot of research on it some time ago but had stopped when I got busy. My cousin, Anna, sent me an e-mail last week that said, "Are we related?" and had a link to the family tree web site she has been working on. My great grandmother and great grandfather were listed there. I have done a lot more research based on information she had and was able to send her even more information for her family tree!

I discovered a lot of interesting things about my family. I already knew I was related to former President Richard Nixon (you can pick your friends but you can't pick your family!) but I found out that I am related to a few knights and might even be related to royalty! I

was able to trace family members back to like 1010 and now have nearly 800 people included in my family tree.

I also found out that I'm part Polish, German, Welsh and French! I guess you could say my heritage is a perfect example of the melting pot that was created when people started coming to the US a few hundred years ago.

There are a lot of great web sites where you can go to do your research. The best one for me so far has been www.ancestry.com. They have so many free records and even a way to help keep track of them all. They also have a feature that lets you see what famous people you might be related to.

Ask your parents for help with remembering names and dates. There's a lot of cool software out there too that will help you organize your information and let you print out your family tree.

Have a great month!

Nancy Cavanaugh

Editor-in-Chief

Let's Celebrate!

May Holidays

- 1 May Day
- 1 Mother Goose Day
- 2 Brothers and Sisters Day
- 4 Canada Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5 Free Comic Book Day
- 8 National Teacher Day
- 8 V-E Day
- 8 World Red Cross Day
- 13 Mother's Day
- 19 Armed Forces Day
- 27 Indianapolis 500
- 28 Memorial Day (observed)
- 30 Memorial Day (actual)

Also

Clean Air Month

- Family Wellness Month
- Learn German Month
- National Bike Month
- National Egg Month
- National Hamburger Month
- National Historic Preservation Month
- National Smile Month
- Young Achiever's Month
- National Photo Month
- Eat Dessert Week
- National Wildflower Week
- Be Kind to Animals Week
- National Family Week
- National Pet Week
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Reading is Fun Week
- National Backyard Games Week

How to Make Gravestone Rubbings

By Pam Halter

A cemetery, also known as a graveyard, can be a scary place, especially at night. But if you go during the day with a grownup, you can see the beauty left there for us to enjoy on many gravestones.

A gravestone, or tombstone, is a rock which has been cut and smoothed so names, dates and messages or artwork can be carved on it as a memorial to someone who has died. The gravestone is set right at the place where a person is buried. Most gravestones are made of marble or granite.

You may see flowers placed near gravestones. People like to bring flowers as a remembrance of those they loved. But they don't take them home. They leave them there. But did you know there is something you can do and bring home with you? It's called gravestone rubbings.

Have you ever placed a coin under a piece of paper and colored over it with a pencil? You can see the imprint of the coin on the paper. Some gravestones make beautiful rubbings because of the artwork carved on them.

Gravestone rubbing is something you have to do with a grownup. Cemeteries are private property and you'll need to get permission before you go to make rubbings.

Once you have permission, you'll need to prepare items to take with you.

What You Need:

- Paper
- Masking tape (no scotch tape or duct tape, please)
- Wax crayons
- Small soft paintbrush,
- Cardboard tube
- Pencil
- Notebook
- Camera.

What to Do:

1. You'll want to choose the right gravestone to do your rub-

bing. Stones which are cracked or worn down are not good for making rubbings. You don't want to damage a stone, so please check carefully.

2. When you have found the right stone, use the soft brush to clean off cobwebs and dirt.

Some gravestones have lichen (a type of moss) growing on them. If the lichen doesn't come off easily with water and the tip of the brush, leave it there.

3. Decide which part of the stone you want to use and tape your paper over it. Remove any paper off the crayon. Turn the crayon sideways and rub gently and evenly over the paper.

Make sure you do not color off the edge of the paper. Notice the design as it comes up. You can press harder for darker color if the stone is strong.

4. After your rubbing is done, roll it up and place it inside your cardboard tube. You may want to write down any information in your notebook about the stone and even take a picture.

5. Clean up! Make sure you don't leave any trash behind.



Graveyards can be found almost anywhere, but especially along old country roads. Tombstones, like the ones shown here, are perfect for rubbings.

When you get home, you can put your rubbing in a frame and hang it up or you can start a scrapbook of interesting gravestone rubbings. You can put your rubbing, picture and information about the stone in the book. It will be fun to record where the cemetery was, the date you visited, names and dates from the gravestone and who went with you. Maybe you can have your picture taken by the stone and put that in

your scrapbook, too.

Gravestones give us a little piece of history. You can start with your own relatives and trace your family tree through their gravestones.

Ask your parents or grandparents for pictures of relatives and find their gravestone. It's like a family treasure hunt. You'll have fun and find out more about your family at the same time.

Gravestone Rubbing Tips

Here are some dos and don'ts for gravestone rubbings:

DO

- Check to see if gravestone rubbing is allowed.
- Get permission.
- Learn the right way to make rubbings before you go.
- Test your paper and crayon beforehand to make sure the color doesn't bleed through.
- Make sure to only rub stones in good condition.
- Use only masking tape.
- Pick up all trash.
- Leave the stone in better condition than you found it.

DON'T

- Don't rub on a stone that is wearing out, cracked or weak in any way.

- Never use soap, bleach, vinegar or any other cleaning solutions to clean the stone, no matter how mild they are.

- Don't ever use anything but a soft brush and a little water to clean off the stone.
- Don't use any rubbing method you have not practiced.
- Don't go alone—take a grown up.

SOME TIPS

- Bring an old towel or mat to kneel on.
- Use bug spray and sunscreen to protect you while you are rubbing, but make sure your hands are clean before you start.
- A spray bottle with water for cleaning the stone.
- Bring a small pail or plastic container to keep your supplies in.
- Bring scissors to trim grass away from the bottom of the stone. That's where many wonderful verses are hidden on older stones.

Spring! (An Elfchen*)

By Maria Gianferrari

Spring
Robins return
Watch out worms
Lilacs wave in wind
AAA-CHOO!



means "little eleven."

In the German language, "chen" (chyen) is a diminutive suffix that emphasizes smallness as well as familiarity and affection when added to a noun. For example, "Kind" (pronounced kint with a short i) means child, but a "Kindchen" (kintchyen) is a cute, little child.

*An "elfchen" (pronounced elftchyen) is an eleven-word German poetic form. Elfchen

Pet Grows New Eyeball

By Ruth Wacker

Can your pet grow a new eyeball? How about a new leg? Can he carry his house on his back? More than likely, you answered ‘no’ to all of these questions....unless, of course, you own a hermit crab!

That’s right! A hermit crab is one talented creature! If his eyeball gets knocked out...no problem! He’ll grow a new one! His leg gets stuck somewhere along his way and pulls off? That’s no problem either. He can grow a new leg too! A hermit crab will also grow too big for his skin. He’ll crawl out of it (called molting) and then eat his own exoskeleton for nourishment.

Imagine carrying your house around on your back. The hermit crab has no choice if he wants to protect his soft body. As he grows, of course he will have to find larger ones that fit. He may spend a lot of time trying on shells to find one that fits just right.

To accommodate their crab’s growth, owners will often keep a variety of shells in their crab’s cage, sometimes even painting them or gluing sequins or stones on them for decoration.

Because they are easy to care for, hermit crabs make great classroom, nursing home, or family pets. They are kept in aquariums with a sand/crushed shell mixture for flooring.

Wood pieces and coral can be provided for climbing, along with many shells (houses) so that he can find one that fits him best! Your hermit crab may also enjoy a “Hermie Hut” for hiding. A water dish and sponge should be provided, since the hermit crab will need to stay moist.

For food, a hermit crab will

munch on fruits and vegetables, dry cereal, coconut, or hermit pellets from the pet store.

Even though he is called a hermit, this does not mean that the hermit crab likes to be alone. He actually enjoys company. He can be taken out of his cage, but owners need to be careful because hermit crabs love to play hide and seek. They have a personality of their own too!

If you’d like to find out more about the talented and fun hermit crab, you can visit www.seashellshop.com, or visit your local pet store.

For related reading, check out “A House for Hermit Crab”, by Eric Carle!



Top: Gary, 8, got his hermit crab while on vacation in Maryland. He loves playing with his hermit crab and frequently lets his buddy go for a ride in his favorite toy sports car.

Right: A hermit crab that you might find on the beach if you’re really lucky!

Egghead Gardening

By Sari Anne Miller

Don't throw away those eggshells after you eat your breakfast! Save them and make an egghead garden. You can plant your seeds in eggshells and watch them grow on your windowsill.

You can start your garden project early, even if there is still snow on the ground, by growing your seedlings indoors. Using eggshells is one way to recycle and be gentle with the environment. Planting the seedlings in the garden when the weather warms up is a snap! You just put the entire egghead in the ground and watch it grow.

Making an egghead garden is simple and fun. First, you need to decide what to plant. You might choose herbs, such as parsley, oregano, or thyme. These grow well in a kitchen window. You could also choose flowers, such as daisies, marigolds, or alyssum. These flowers sprout well indoors.

Do you want to see your garden grow quickly? Then you could plant radish seeds, beans, or rye grass seeds. If you choose rye grass seeds, the grass will look like green hair when it comes up. You can give your egghead a haircut and watch the "hair" grow back. Your egghead might need a haircut about once a week as long as you keep it well watered.

What You Need:

Eggshells for as many planters as you want to make.

Paint or markers to decorate the faces of your eggheads.

Potting soil and a tablespoon.

Seeds for planting.

The top of a 16 ounce water bottle.
(One for each eggshell.)

What to Do:

1. First, crack open the eggshells at the narrow end. Save the eggs to cook. Have an adult help you trim around the edge of the shell with a

pair of scissors. Carefully wash and dry the eggshell.

2. Next, decorate your egghead with any type of face you like. Let it dry completely.

3. After it's decorated, put a few spoonfuls of potting soil in your eggshell. It should be about 2/3 full of soil. Use the top of a water bottle as a stand, and set the egghead on it. Then, sprinkle a few seeds on the soil.

4. Last, gently water the soil using a tablespoon. Be careful not to over-water!

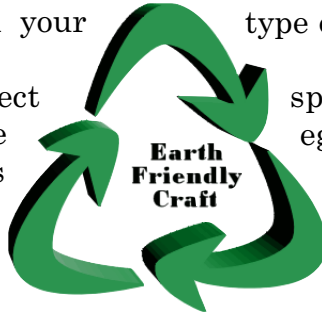
5. Place your egghead in a sunny window, and water it every day to help the seeds sprout.

Once your seeds have sprouted, you can keep them growing on your windowsill. When you're ready to move them outside to the garden, just plant the entire egghead in the ground.

The eggshell will help to fertilize the plant as it grows. In addition, snails don't like eggshells, so perhaps the eggshell will keep those pesky snails from nibbling on your brand new plants!

You can plant some flower seeds and give it as a present on Mother's Day which will be on Sunday, May 13. Just plant your egghead in a pretty pot, tie a ribbon on it, and you'll have a beautiful living gift to share. Mom can watch as the seeds sprout and start to grow.

Have fun with your Egghead Garden!



Picture by Sari Anne Miller

George Washington and the Culper Gang

By Maribeth Uralrith

Secret spy network, invisible ink, hidden messages, and crafty secret codes—would you associate any of these phrases with the father of our country, George Washington? If you thought no way, sorry but you're wrong. George Washington, before he became the first president of the United States, was one of the first spymasters in American history.

As the American Revolution was in full swing and General Washington took charge of the rebel force, the British began to use spies to retrieve vital information to ensure the downfall of the rebel army.

Washington, no stranger to espionage, he had first been exposed to spying through Robert Dinwiddie, the King of England's Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia during the French and Indian War. Dinwiddie had commissioned him to gather intelligence on the French. So successful was his mission that he wrote an account of his adventures, which were published, and instantaneously made him into a hero and celebrity.

With the beginning of the American Revolution, Washington's life as a hero and secret agent had begun.

On March 17th, 1776, pressure from the American Army, forces the British to evacuate the city of Boston. Washington marched victoriously into the city, liberated it, and then moved on to New York City where he began to set up his biggest and most successful spy network.

New York was the spy center of the American Revolution and although Washington holds the city for a short time, he knows that if the British reoccupy New York, they would establish it as their headquarters. He knew he must have several spies planted there to obtain much needed information on British movements. Civilians who were already living there, who had not declared which side they are on, were those who Washington sought. However, the civilians needed a military person to organize them and be the contact person between himself and the spy network.

Major Benjamin Tallmadge, a bold and dashing officer in the American army, was chosen personally by Washington to head up his most confidential weapon he needed to use to win the war. Tallmadge had been a close personal, friend of Nathan Hale who was captured as an



Major Benjamin Tallmadge

American spy and died bravely for his country. He wanted to avenge his friend's death and accepted Washington's offer wholeheartedly.

He began recruiting people who he thought could pull off this deception most successfully. Washington knew exactly what type of person he wanted in his spy network; people who could mix as much as possible among the officers and Tories; people who could go to the coffeehouses and all public places without being suspected of anything and people who could live with the enemy without subjecting themselves to suspicions and who could observe British movements.

The Culper Ring (code name for Washington's Manhattan spy network) soon began to add to its members. Most were untrained amateurs who had no military experience and who even as a religion practiced peace over war; a school teacher, a Setauket farmer, a ex-whaler, a tavern keeper, a Quaker merchant were now united together in seeing that Washington's hopes of winning the American Revolution became a reality.

In a well-operated spy network, agents do not know each other's real names. They try to stay separated from each other. This helps to ensure that if anyone is caught and held, they do not reveal the true identities of the other agents. Washington himself didn't know the true identities of his agents except for Major Tallmadge.

All that Washington knew was that there was an agent that Tallmadge called Culper Sr. and an agent that he called Culper Jr.

Tallmadge, Culper Sr. (Abraham Woodhull), Culper Jr. (Robert Townsend), Anna Strong, Caleb Brewster, and Austin Roe are names that have been mostly overlooked in the pages of history but together, as the Culper Ring, they acquired so much valuable information that Washington himself attributed their espionage to being a significant force in winning the American Revolution.

The Culpers used several tools to send secret codes and messages back and forth. Tallmadge invented a secret writing system. He substituted numbers for words that would be used in messages. He also gave words such as Long Island, arms, city, the names of the months, as well as many other words, numbers. For words that did not have a number, Tallmadge gave his agents a cipher. In a cipher, each letter in a message is replaced by another letter or number.

Tallmadge assigned each spy as well as Washington with a number. Washington code number was 711. Tallmadge made four copies of his secret writing system. He kept one for himself, gave one to General Washington, one to Culper Sr. and the last one to Culper Jr. An example of a message sent by Culper Sr. to Washington read like this:

729. 29. 15th 1779 Sir. Dqpeu Beyocpu agreeable to 28. met 723. not far from 727. & received a 356. every 356. is opened at the entrance of 727. and every 371. is searched. That for the future every 356. must be 691. with the 286. received.

Culper Sr. didn't try to put into code, words such as Sir, from, not far, etc These words could not give away any valuable information. The code once deciphered reads like this:

Setauket—August 15th, 1779. Sir Jonas Hawkins agreeable to appointment- met Culper Jr. not far from New York & received a letter. Every letter is opened at the entrance of

New York and every man is searched, that for the future every letter must be written with the ink received.

The idea of invisible ink has been around for some time. Writing with lemon juice as the ink is on way to write an invisible message. Once the paper is heated, the writing will appear, looking as it was written in a brown colored ink. Washington wanted an ink that could not be read by merely heating the paper, he wanted a substance that would only appear if it were treated with a chemical. James Jay, who was the brother of the Patriot John Jay, developed an ink exactly what Washington desired; a chemical that would be invisible while writing and would only be visible when a second chemical was brushed onto it.

As the war was won, many of Washington's spies filtered into the population and went back to live normal lives. Their deeds, bravery and courage, their allegiance to their General and their country were never spoken of again.

They didn't receive any notoriety, appreciation, parades or even a pat on the back. Some feared for their lives and didn't want any thanks. Caution and secrecy kept many stories of their heroism from the public. Many stories have only surface in the

20th century. However, what they did to ensure an American victory in the American Revolution is known.

Washington's allies and adversaries all agree on one thing, that he was a great spymaster.

Major George Beckwith, the head of the British intelligence operations in America at the end of the war wrote: "Washington did not really outfight the British, he simply outspied us!"

For more information about spies in the American Revolution you can go to www.si.umich.edu/spies/methods.html, for spying lessons, visit Mrs. Covert's Spying lessons at http://www.simegen.com/writers/rabbit/spying_lesson.htm.



A page from the code book.

The Colony that Almost Wasn't

By Carol G. Stratton

Did you ever wonder what the first settlers were like? Why did they come to the New World? 2007 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the first brave men and women who set foot on shore. We can thank them for starting the first colony that grew into the United States of America. Let's learn of their story.

In 1606 a group of adventurous men from England heard of the amazing New World where land was plentiful, fertile and rich with gold. These entrepreneurs landed on the banks of the Virginia River, sixty miles from Chesapeake Bay. One hundred and eight businessmen from England had come to build a colony. Their king, King James, had granted a colony (the beginnings of a small town.). King James wanted to expand his country and develop new business that would make money for England.

Disappointment soon set in. These men were merchants and businessmen and even though they worked hard, they weren't pioneers and didn't know how to grow things in this new territory. The swampy land was not good for farming as they had known in England. Plows would catch on tree roots and the wheat seed wouldn't sprout. Hunger and sickness surrounded the entrepreneurs. As a result, many died that first winter.

Famine and disease weren't their only enemies. The new colonists became involved in many battles with the Algonquin Indians. Even the triangular-shaped fort built didn't stand up against their foes.

By 1609 only sixty men had survived. What saved these few men were some friendly captive Native Americans who showed the men how to plant

corn in a mound of soil. They also showed the settlers how to fish and build canoes. With some colonists trading copper and iron utensils with the Algonquians, the colony carved out a meager living.

Things became more difficult as more ships came, full of men who expected an easy life. In the fall of 1608 women and some more men got off the ships. They had been shipwrecked in Bermuda and had to rebuild their sailing vessels. Jamestown had more bodies to feed and little food. Things grew worse.

In 1609 the settlers named that particular winter, "The Starving Time" as food shortages grew. Even Captain John Smith could not encourage the colonists. People ate rats, horses and dogs, creatures they'd never consider as food back in England. Finally, just as many were ready to board the ship and return to England, a supply ship filled with food and tools arrived.

The Algonquian Indians and the colonists still fought terrible battles. Powhatawan, the chief of all the tribes, turned against the new settlers. He captured Captain John Smith, ready to stone him to death, when Pohatawan's



Jamestown Fort



Chief Powhatan

thirteen-year-old daughter lay down on top of the captain to save him. You may have heard of her name ...Pocahontas.

Not all of the English colonists came for wealth and riches. A man named John Rolfe had a heart for the Native Americans who did not know the God of the Bible. He felt

called to be a missionary to the New World. Pocahontas, the chief's daughter, became the first convert to Jamestown. She and her husband sailed to England where they became honored celebrities of high society.

2007 is the four hundredth anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. We who live in such a wonderful country need to appreciate the struggle the first colonists endured. One wonders why they didn't give up. They withstood many hardships unknown in England. Children died of yellow fever as parents

scrounged for food anyway they could. We can be thankful for that enduring spirit of those first brave settlers of the New World.

Fun Facts

- Many of the newcomers had clothes too warm for the muggy climate of Virginia.
- Reports of gold were highly exaggerated.
- Captain Smith awed his captors with his magic compass that knew where north was.
- Those who stole corn from the Indians would be found dead with a mouthful of bread
- When food was very scarce, one third of the colonist went down to the river to live on oysters.
- Brown rats came off the ships and ate half of the corn in storage.

What Would You Do?

Imagine you were living in Jamestown. What would you do?

- Eat a Rat?
- Hop back on the boat and risk a storm or try to stay in Jamestown?
- Stay at Jamestown or explore another area to live?



My Fairy Mom

By Dana Cleveland Konop

Could my mother be a fairy?
Are wings under her coat?
Could it be she uses fairy dust
While light with dainty toes?

Does she sprinkle bits of magic
When I'm feeling sick,
And put in pixie spices
To make dinner speedy quick?

Could she really be a fairy?
I think this must be true.
I have a fairy kind of mom,
And I'm glad my mom is YOU!



Finish the Story...

Use the paragraph below to start your own story. Have fun and let your imagination run away with you!

Katy happily waited in line chatting with her two best friends. All of her class was laughing and talking as they found their seats on the bus. Katy got to sit by the window and loved the breeze blowing her hair as they drove through morning traffic. The bus came to a stop and Katy anxiously looked out the window to see ...

By Shannon Bennett

Rocket Car Reality

By Kristy Olive

Matthew jumped out of bed without pressing the snooze on his alarm clock. Today, he was headed to Disney World. He ran downstairs, pulling on his clothes as he ran. His mother handed him a pastry as he slid into a chair at the kitchen table, where the plasma screen hanging on the kitchen wall showed news from around the world. He gulped down his breakfast and endured a kiss from his mother before dashing out into the driveway.

His dad was waiting for him in their four passenger Skycar to transport him from their home in Atlanta, Georgia to Disney World in Orlando. It would take less than two hours. He couldn't wait to get there!

How far have I whisked you into the future? Not as far as you might think! While the price tag and approval by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) are keeping these new vehicles out of our garages at the moment, the M400 Skycar prototype has been flying since 2002. You don't believe me? Check out Moller Industries website, where their FAQ reports that a limited number of these vehicles will be available in the next 3 years.

What's a Skycar? The M400 Skycar was invented by Dr. Paul Moller, and he believes it's the automobile of the future. Someday, he thinks, you will jump into your Skycar and drive down the highway at about 35 miles per hour. That's not so fast, you say. You will make up for that slow stretch. You are driving to a

"vertiport" which will be a little like an airport, but it looks more like a large parking lot. From the "vertiport" you and your Skycar will take off and fly to your destination at 375 miles per hour. Look at a map, 375 miles in one hour, can you imagine?

The dream gets even bigger. While initially, the "driver" would have to be a licensed pilot, the makers hope to build in an advanced type of auto-pilot eventually. This would change the people inside from drivers to passengers. Then anyone could travel in this convenient transportation. You might even be able to leave your parents behind while you check out a NASCAR race across the country. Who needs television?



How much do you need to stuff into your piggy bank to be the proud owner of these sleek machines? Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogue advertised the prototype M400 in 2005 for the bargain price of \$3.5 million. To come up with that kind of money, you'll have to mow a lot of yards!

Don't worry though, as production increases Moller expects the price to drop. That means that the more Skycars they make, they cheaper they get. If their predictions are correct, the price tag may get as low as \$60,000. That's about the price of a totally loaded sports car.

While technology is available today, FAA approval and pricing prevent you from owning your own Skycar. But don't be surprised if someday you hit the sky instead of the road.

Check It Out!

The *Fandangle Magazine* web site has tons of fun things from free online games and resources to help make getting your homework done to a virtual library with loads of free ebooks that can be downloaded or read while you're on the site. Have fun!

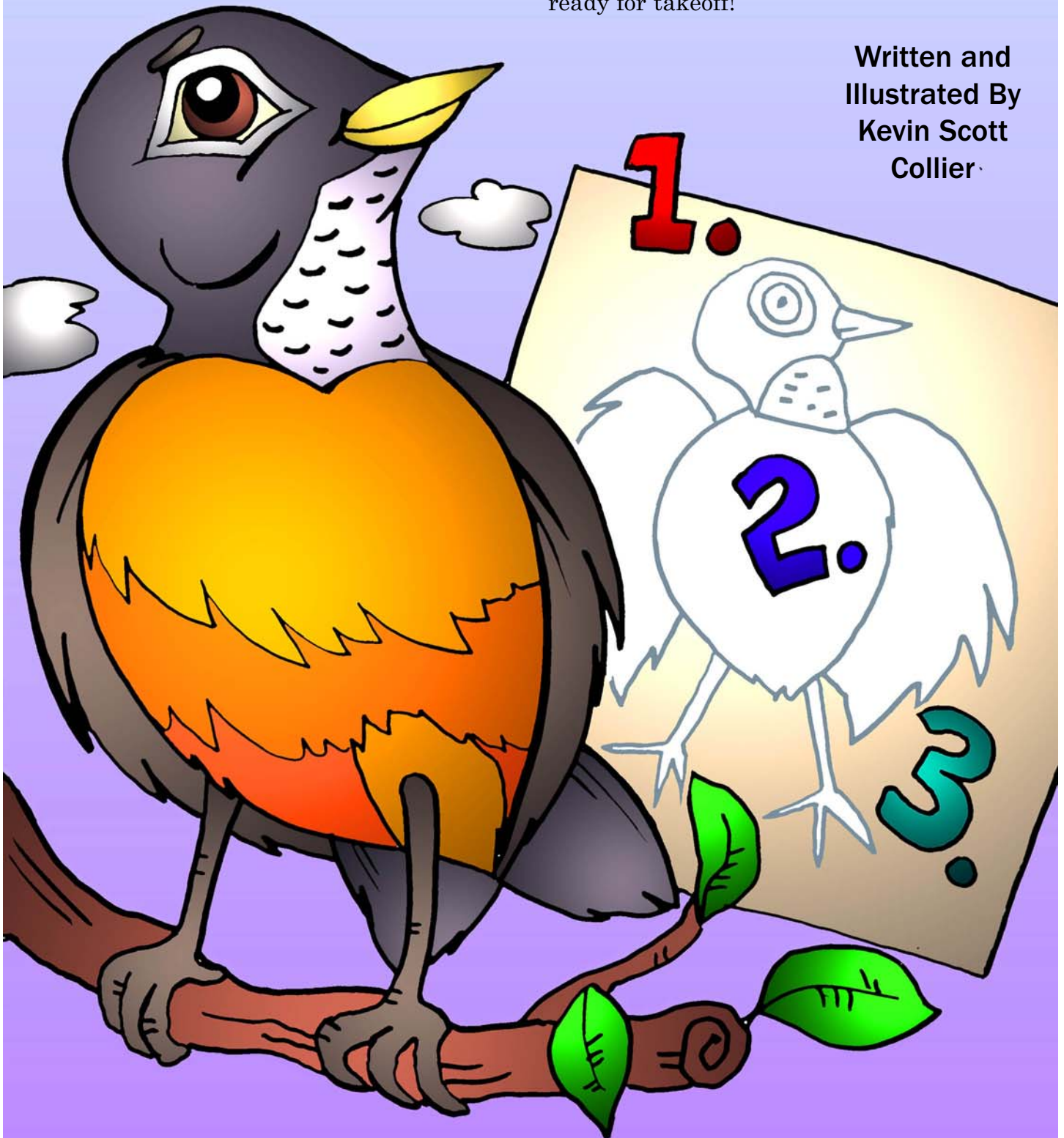
How to Draw A Rockin' Red Robin

Spring is here and summer is on the way. Time to get outdoors and draw one of my favorite birds, a Robin. With three easy

steps, you'll be rockin'!

1. Draw the bird's head.
2. A Robin's body is egg-shaped.
3. Add the wings, legs and feet, and you're ready for takeoff!

Written and
Illustrated By
Kevin Scott
Collier



History Without a Book

By Donna Alice Patton

Can you guess this puzzle? What do Thomas Edison's last breath, the Wright Brothers Bicycle Shop and a Heinz pickle all have in common? Give up? They're all exhibits at a unique museum in Dearborn, Michigan. It's called the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

You've probably heard the name, Henry Ford. He's the daring man who invented the Model T Ford and made owning a car possible for everyone. Until he began to manufacture cars in an assembly line, only wealthy people could afford automobiles. Ford changed all that. With its low cost and reliability, the Model T gave millions of Americans the freedom to own a car. Over 15 million Model T's were invented between 1908 and 1927.

Henry Ford was not only an inventor and automotive pioneer. He also liked to collect things. Plain things like toaster, kerosene lamps, tractors. Ordinary things like farm equipment, steam engines and, oh, yes, historic buildings. Some people say that he tried to collect one of everything ever made in America.

In 1928, Mr. Ford decided it was time to create a different kind of museum. A place where children could learn from exhibits and artifacts, not just history books. He wanted a



A covered bridge that Ford had moved from its original location in Pennsylvania to the Greenfield Village.

museum where people could see how their ancestors had lived and worked in the past. On September 27, 1928, he invited Thomas Edison to write his name in wet concrete on the museum's cornerstone. Into the stone he shoved a garden spade once owned by renowned horticulturist, Luther Burbank. The cornerstone symbolized the union between agriculture and industry in mankind's technological progress.

Greenfield Village, nicknamed "America's Hometown," had long been a dream of Henry's. He saw it as a giant classroom, a place where students could learn by doing.

It was opened in 1933 and consists of 80 historic structures on 81 acres of land. It was never a real village because many of the buildings came from different parts of the United States. They also represent different periods in time. It's almost like having a time machine to travel from one period of American history to another.

You can visit Henry Ford's birthplace as well as the Wright Brothers. The Wright brothers home was originally in Dayton, Ohio. Henry Ford bought it and the brother's bicycle shop in 1937. With Orville Wright's help, he had the home restored to how it looked in 1903 when the brothers took their famous flight. It's fun to step into the bicycle shop and see the original tools the Wrights used as well as a tiny piece of the first plane they flew in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Another cool exhibit is a stop to Menlo Park. Ever wonder what Thomas Edison's "invention factory" looked like? You can see the famous laboratory where Mr. Edison and his capable assistants invented the phonograph and the electric light bulb. As you leave the laboratory, stop into Sarah Jordan's Boardinghouse for a visit. Men who worked with Thomas Edison often boarded with Mrs. Jordan, whose house was one of the first in the world to be lighted by Edison's new invention. Although they kept kerosene lamps ready just in case the power went out.

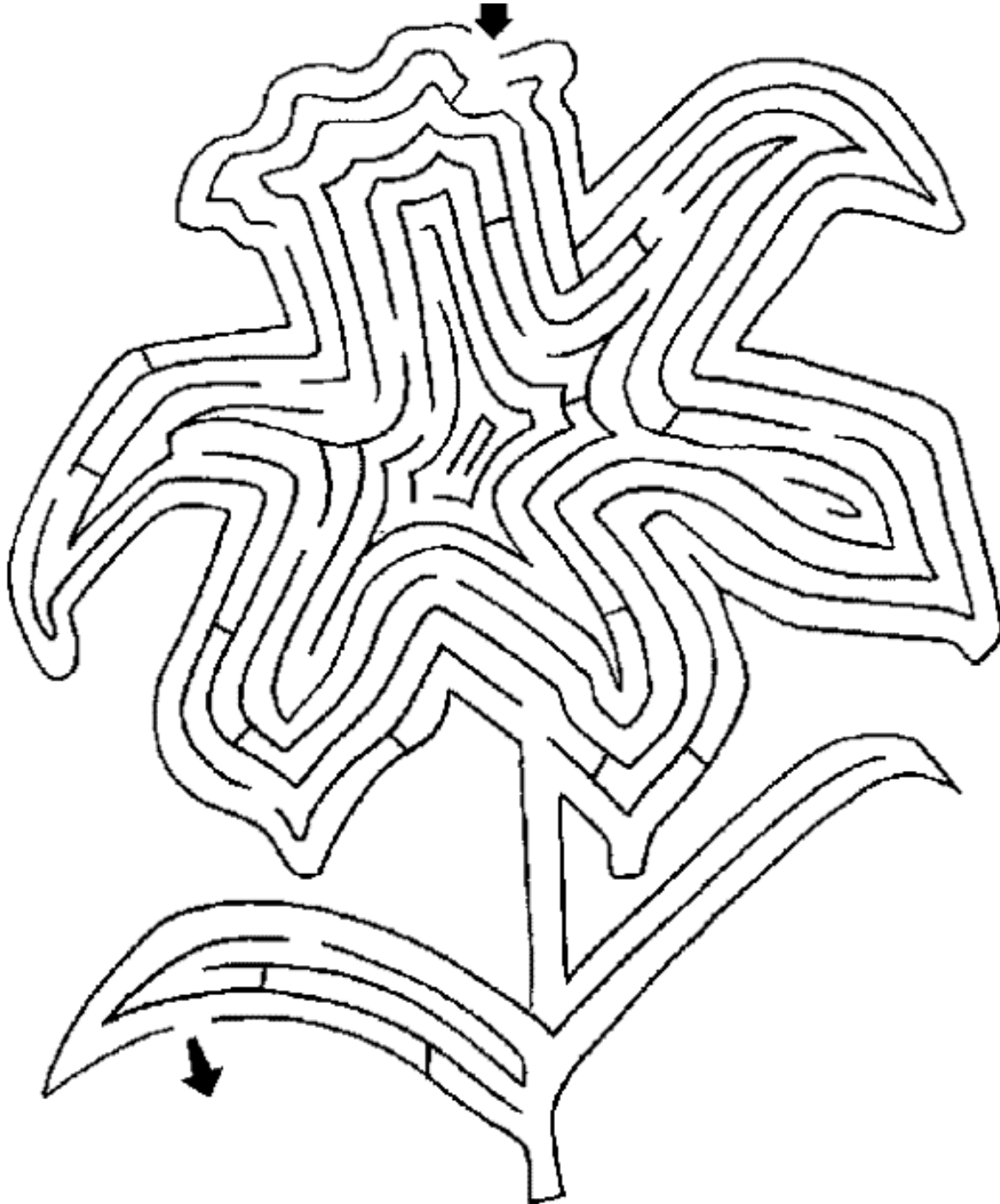
Visitors to the village can tour Firestone Farm, a living historical farm where the work is done much the same way it was in the 1880's. You'll see Wrinkly Merino sheep being sheared, watch the horses plow up land for crops and learn how people cooked without microwaves.

And before you leave, peek into the original Heinz pickle factory or the courthouse where Abraham Lincoln once practiced law.

At the Henry Ford Museum, visitors could stay for a week and never see all of this amaz-

ing collection. Thomas Edison's last breath, caught in a glass vial by the inventor's son. The rocking chair Abraham Lincoln sat in when he was assassinated. A camp bed George Washington really did sleep in. The Oscar Meyer weinermobile. A bicycle built for ten!

Henry Ford once said, "There is only one reason Greenfield Village exists - to give us a sense of unity with our people through the generations, and to convey the inspiration of American genius to our youth."



Popcorn For Sale

By Charlotte Mayo

"Hello young lady, how are you today?" Mr. Dodge asked.

"I'm good but I can't have candy today because we're here on business not for shopping." explained Jessica.

Mr. Dodge owner of the Candy Cane Sweet and Treat Shoppe on Main Street asked, "What kind of business Miss Jessica?"

Nine year old Jessica answered, "Do you have a popcorn popper, popcorn bags, and a popcorn stand for sale?"

"I'll go check the backroom." he answered handing Jessica a candy stick.

Returning Mr. Dodge said, "I found this popcorn popper, these little boxes and this old stand. The stand will need a good cleaning I've had it stored for a long time."

"That's okay, I'm good at cleaning things up aren't I mommy."

Smiling at Jessica her mother said. "Sometimes. How much do we owe you Mr. Dodge?"

While ringing in their supplies Mr. Dodge looked at Jessica saying, "I'll make you a deal. I'll give you the stand for free because it is old and needs cleaning."

"Are you sure Mr. Dodge?" asked mother.

"A new business owner deserves a little discount when starting a business." winking at Jessica Mr. Dodge asked, "Where are you going to set up this popcorn business of yours?"

"I don't know do you mommy?"

"We haven't discussed that yet Mr. Dodge." replied Mother.

"You can sell your popcorn outside the candy shoppe. Does that sound okay to you Jessica?"

That night Jessica worked very hard to clean the stand. Her mother stenciled the

word Popcorn on the front in red and white striped letters.

Two days later Jessica was open for business in front of the Candy Cane Sweet and Treat Shoppe on Main Street with full boxes of popcorn and extra popcorn in her machine ready to serve.

"Hello Jessica." said Mr. Temple, "I'll take two please."

"Here you go Mr. Temple and thank you." Jessica smiled. "This is fun mommy."

A few hours later with her popcorn almost gone Jessica sat in a chair swinging her feet checking the street for more customers. Looking at her mother she said, "I can't believe I've made so much money mommy."

"Well it's not only about the money Jessica I wanted you to learn how a business works and how much work goes into a business. Having fun is important too. I've had fun too but we've had enough for one day."

The next day a small crowd gathered at the stand. Looking at the people waiting to buy popcorn her mother made more afraid they would run out. Handing a box to a woman her mother asked. "What's going on? Why are you all here at once?"

A man shouted, "The movie theater's popcorn machine caught fire. We came here to buy our popcorn and hurry back to see the movie."

A woman line added, "Maybe you should think about moving down the street to the theater."

After using Mr. Dodge's phone Jessica's mother announced, "Perhaps we'll return in a few days Mr. Dodge."

"Where are we going mommy?"

"I spoke to Mr. Harman at the movie theater and he'd like us to sell popcorn until his



machine gets fixed."

Standing outside the theater Jessica yelled, "Popcorn for sale! Get your popcorn!"

With the movie started and no more customers Jessica turned to her mother, "That was hard! We were so busy but I'm glad we could

help Mr. Harman."

"Indeed you did!" Mr. Harman walked over to them, "I'd like to reward you for your service. Come inside and watch any movie you wish for free. Don't forget to get your popcorn!" Mr. Harman and mother laughed.

Lucy's New Old Dog

By Marianne Nielsen

"Mom, let's go get our pup," Lucy said, pulling on her mother's arm.

Her mother handed some papers to the lady behind the animal shelter counter.

"Okay, I'm ready," she said and followed her daughter through the door, into a room lined with kennels.

Lucy slapped her hands over her ears. "Mom, the dogs are so noisy." "They're happy to see us," her mother said, raising her voice.

Lucy pointed toward the puppy kennel. "Look at all those cute puppies."

She hurried over and crouched in front of them. Behind the metal bars, six shaggy, black and white puppies greeted her with licks, cold noses and tiny barks.

Next to Lucy and her mom, stood a redheaded girl and a lady. They peered into the kennel next to puppies at a big white and black polka dot dog.

Suddenly, a black puppy with one white paw bounced and rolled his way in front of his brothers and sisters. Lucy yelled with glee, "I want that one!"

The girl with red hair moved over and knelt beside Lucy. "Mom, can I have one of these puppies, instead?" she asked.

A few minutes later, Lucy watched the girl and her mother leave. In the girl's arms, a furry black and white puppy licked her cheek.

Lucy stood and watched the puppies springing and nipping at each other. They were so cute. She would have loved to have all of them.

Then something cold and wet touched her hand. The spotted dog's black nose sniffed at her, and his tongue slipped through the bars

across her hand. His long skinny tail swept the floor.

Lucy reached through the bars and tickled behind his ear. "Look Mom, this dog is smiling at me."

"It looks that way, doesn't it?" her mother said, also reaching in to pet the dog.

Lucy turned toward the puppy kennel. She had decided which puppy to take home. "Mom, let's get our puppy now."

The polka dotted dog whined as Lucy and Mom knelt in front of the puppy kennel. Lucy turned, and his big brown eyes drooped, looking

sad. "Oh," she said, "he looks like he's going to cry."

"Dogs don't cry, Honey," said her mother, ruffling her daughter's dark curls.

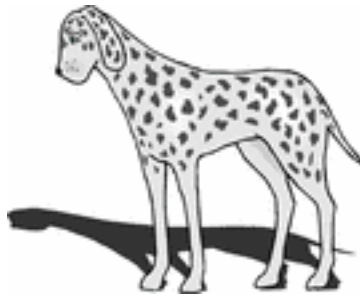
Lucy smiled at the puppies playing and tumbling over each other. She felt confused. The young pups were as cute as a nest of baby birds. But the Dalmatian seemed to want her more.

She stepped in front of the bigger dog's kennel, and read aloud the sign hanging on the bars, "My name is Jessie. I am two years old. I am friendly and I love children. My old owners moved and they couldn't take me along. I love to cuddle and play fetch."

"Jessie," Lucy said, smiling. "I like that name." She looked up at her mom. "Can we take her home? Please?"

Her mother touched Lucy's cheek. "What about the new puppy?" she asked.

Lucy rubbed the top of Jessie's head. "Jessie will still be a new dog. But, she will be my new old dog."



The Cat's Out of the Bag

By Kellee Kranendonk

Ever wonder why people say the things they do? Okay, they have plenty of reasons.

"You're a wonderful kid." (Was there ever any doubt?)

"I wish I had tickets to tonight's game." (Well, duh!)

"It's raining cats and dogs." (Huh?)

The English language has many expressions that sound like one thing but mean another. They're called idioms. Why they mean the things they do has been lost in time and with usage. Long ago, no one ever thought to write them all down for future generations who might not understand them. To be truthful (and I wouldn't have written this article if I didn't intend to be) after all my research, I still don't know how most of those phrases came to mean what they do. But my research pointed me to some likely explanations.

Baker's dozen

Meaning: Thirteen of something rather than twelve.

Explanation: This dates back to medieval times, or even before, when people bought their bread from bakers. The law stated that bakers could be fined or otherwise penalized for cheating customers.

Best Educated Guess: Bakers included an extra loaf of bread in every dozen sold so they couldn't be accused of ripping off their customers and therefore they avoided punishment. After all no one likes being punished.



Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Meaning: If someone gives you something for nothing, don't criticize it.

Explanation: Old horses have longer teeth than younger ones and people used to look into a horse's mouth to see if he was getting an old or young horse. (Also related to the phrase,

"Long in the tooth" to describe someone old).

Best Educated Guess: If someone gives you a gift or something free, be polite and say thank-you, even if you don't like it.



Kilroy was here

Meaning: This doesn't really mean anything, but everyone is familiar with the little bald man peeking over the wall.

Explanation: This, according to all accounts, is army graffiti. Who Mr. Kilroy actually was is debatable. Although there may be thousands of "Kilroy's" all over the world, only two come into this explanation. Mr. James J. Kilroy and Mr. Francis J. Kilroy. One of these men was a goods inspector. Once he'd inspected



ed the goods, he'd scribble this phrase down so time wouldn't be wasted inspecting the same goods. The other man, apparently and unfortunately, got sick. His friend wrote on a bulletin board in the barracks, "Kilroy will be here next week."

Best Educated Guess: Kilroy will be here is much different from Kilroy was here. Though it's possible someone wrote this down, it isn't the kind of phrase that catches on. Someone who inspects things would have to do a lot of writing, whether it was that phrase or something else, to indicate an inspector (Kilroy) indeed was here. That's the kind of phrase that catches on. When you know something has been inspected you also know "Kilroy was here." Where the cartoon, peeking man came from though is anyone's best educated guess.

Let the cat out of the bag

Meaning: Give away a secret.

Explanation: Back in medieval times, people would go to a market to buy their goods. A

lot of the vendors at these markets were also scammers. People would get tricked into buying one thing they thought was something else, such as a cat instead of a pig.

Best Educated Guess: Pigs are good eating (unless you're a vegetarian, which no one was back in medieval times). Cats, in most countries, are not good eating even if you do eat meat. If you bought what you



thought was a pig in a bag, once you got home and let the cat out, the secret, or scam, would be revealed.

So now you know a little bit about some idioms. Try making up some of your own. Don't forget to write them down in a notebook so your grandkids' grandkids will know what you meant. Another idea is to write down the idioms you hear other people using. Guess what they mean and how they got to mean it. Then do a little internet surfing to see how close your guess was. Have fun.

Getting Around

By Amy Hagerty

By air, by water, or by ground,
There are lots of ways to get around,
Take a rocket to the moon
Soar high in a hot-air balloon,
Cross the Pacific on a cruise-ship,
Board a submarine for the return trip,
On land, go by van, snowboard or tricycle,
I will go by foot, it won't cost a nickel.

Can I Keep Him?

By Vicki Rogers

On Monday I brought home a mouse.
My mother said, "not in my house".
I'm sorry son he cannot stay.
So I give the mouse away.

On Wednesday I brought home a cat
My mother said, "You can't keep that."
I cried and cried a lot that day,
When mother gave the cat away.

On Friday I brought home a hound.
I said "Mother! see what I found?"
She shook her head and said "NO WAY"
And made me give the dog away.

On Sunday much to my surprise.
I found a pet mom didn't despise.
It's not a mouse, a cat or puppy.
What's my new pet? It's a guppy.

The Koka-lulu Birds

By Rolli

The kooky koka-lulu birds
("Lu-lu, lu-lu," they sing)
Are cuckoo-mad in love with blue,
And steal blue everything.

They swiped my new blue shoes, and hat.
They snatched my backpack, just like that!
They took my blue shirt and my pants—
So now I do the naked dance!

Lu-lu, lu-lu! I feel so blue,
I bet they're gonna steal me, too!

Ten Little Bunnies

By Maria Gianferrari

Ten little bunnies
Hopping, hopping
Cotton tails
Be-bopping, bopping
Finding clover
Stopping, stopping
Tiny little teeth
Chopping, chopping
Into the burrow
Dropping, dropping
Ten little bunnies
Flopping, flopping



Bet You Didn't Know: About the Pencil

By Maribeth Uralrith

Okay, you're sitting in class and you've just had been handed an assignment that will probably take until you 60th birthday to complete. Your mind starts to wonder, you look around the room to see if anything will spark an idea. You look down at you hand and see the yellow number two that you have held most of you life in school. Nope, no brilliant ideas there, but wait! I bet you didn't know that the pencil has a pretty interesting history of its own.

Kids and adults usually think of the pencil as a modern day tool but I bet you didn't know that as far back as 1564 the graphite has been in use. Pretty cool huh? Actually, it even goes farther back to the Roman Empire when the Romans wrote on paper with a fine metallic rod made with lead known as the stylus.

This writing tool created a permanent mark that was rather light. We get our word pencil from the Latin word "penicillus" which means little tail — the name of a small, fine, pointed brush the ancient Romans used. Graphite is derived from the Greek word meaning to write.

Invention of the Pencil

The more modern "lead" pencil, which contains no lead at all, was invented in 1564 when a large graphite (black carbon) mine was discovered in Borrowdale, Cumbria, England. At that time in history, the pure graphite was sawn into sheets and then cut into square rods. At first, the sticks of graphite were wrapped in string.

Later, the rods were then inserted into wooden sticks that had been hollowed out by hand. Graphite was softer and more brittle than lead so it required a wooden casing. The new pencils were called lead by mistake because the newly discovered graphite was black, looked, and acted like lead. However, graphite left a darker mark than lead. It was not known at the time that the graphite consisted of carbon and not lead.

With no other mines yet discovered, the English held the monopoly on the pencil market. The Germans tried to make their own form

of the pencil by grinding the graphite into power and forming them into sticks but this quickly was found to be impractical.

In 1795, Nicholas Jacques Conte patented the modern method of kiln-firing powered graphite with clay making the graphite harder and lasting longer.

The Modern Era

The first mass production of the pencil happened in Nuremburg, Germany in 1662. Until the American Revolution, America bought pencils from England. During the Revolutionary War, England cut off many supplies to the colonies. It was William Monroe, a cabinetmaker in Concord, Massachusetts who made the first American wood pencils. Benjamin Franklin advertised pencils for sale in his Pennsylvania Gazette in 1729. George Washington used a three-inch pencil when he surveyed the Ohio territory in 1762.

The first mass produced pencils were unpainted to show off their high quality, hand made casings. By 1890, manufacturers began to paint their pencils and give them brand



Pencils being created at the factory.

names. During this period, the best graphite came from China.

American pencil makers wanted to show to their consumers that their pencils contained the high quality Chinese graphite so they began to paint their pencils yellow to convey royalty and the regal attitude associated with the Chinese. Today, 75% of pencils sold in the United States are painted yellow.

Early American pencil casing were made from Eastern Red Cedar, a strong, splinter-resistant wood that grows in Tennessee and other parts in the Southwestern United States.

By the 1900's the pencil manufacturers needed new sources of wood, and then began to buy wood that came from the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. The Sierra Nevada wood is an Incense-cedar species that grows in abundance and makes superior pencil casings. The superior wood soon became the wood of choice for American pencil manufactures and international makers also.

The Space Age Disadvantage

A modern day drawback to using pencils is that they cannot be used in space. The act of writing can cause the graphite dust to float

around the cabin causing a health risk to astronauts. The dust can also clog filters in the ventilation system, or even cause short-circuits by getting into switches and other electrical equipment.

Mis-Lead

A modern day myth about pencils is that many schoolchildren puncture themselves with the tip of the lead, which leads to the tale that lead bits could be passed through the blood and into the brain causing retardation. This could not happen because, as we now know, pencils are made of carbon not lead. However, a puncture wound may leave a gray mark on the inside of the skin that could last for years.

So now, you know the rest of the story. Pencils are everywhere helping you and me to do everything from those irritating school assignments to making beautiful drawings that can be sold for thousands of dollars. So, the next time you look down at your pencil, instead of taking it for granted, you can earn some major points with your teacher by telling her and your classmates the history of the pencil.

Making Music with Water

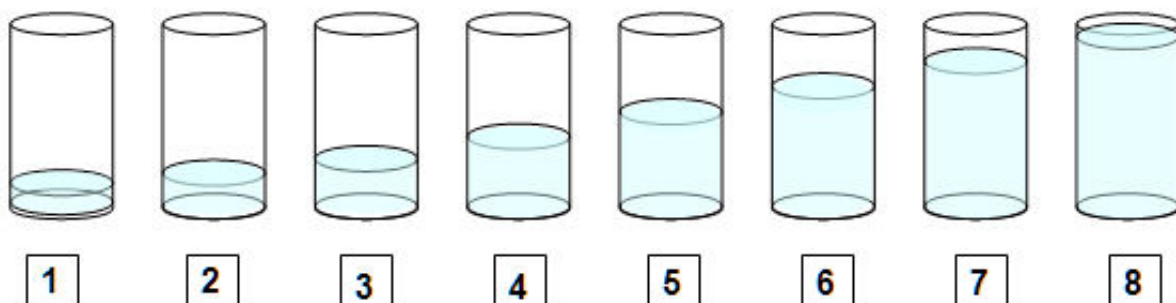
By Evelyn B. Christensen

Making music with water can be fun! Line up 6-8 tall glasses on a table (they should be made of glass, not plastic or metal). Pour just a little water in the glass on the left. Continue pouring water in the glasses so that each glass has a little more water than the one before it.

Use a table knife or the metal handle of a spoon and lightly tap glasses one at a time. The

different heights of the water will cause different sounds. See if you can create a melody that you like.

If you want to remember your melody, you can number the glasses with slips of paper. Then on a larger piece of paper you can write down the order of the glasses as you play them.



The Penguin Walk

By Rolli

Listen, children!
Listen up!
If you'll be still
(I hope you will),
And stop the squawk
(That means "don't talk!")
Boy oh boy,
We'll show you
How to do the penguin walk!



With your sister
And your brother,
Rock from one foot
To the other.



Count to two,
Kick off your shoes,
Then flap your flippers
(Arms will do).
First the left one,
Then the right—
And now, make sure
Your pants are tight.



Waddle faster
'Round the room,
Zipping to a
Perfect ZOOM.
If somethin' breaks,
You'll have to glue it—
The Penguin walk,
There's nothing to it!



Keep your arms
Stiff at your sides
(It won't seem silly
Once you've tried).



Show your parents!
Show your friends!
I bet that you'll
Be penguin-cool
At school tomorrow.
Boy oh boy, oh
How they'll whisper,
How they'll talk:
"Wish I could do the penguin walk!"



Just For You

By Tara Robbins

With a snip of my scissors.
Used a drop or two of glue.
A card I'm making just for you.
I draw pretty pink hearts.
Flowers that are purple and blue
I tip toe up behind her.
My little brother does, too.
Surprise, mommy, look-
A card I made just for you!



Bubbles

By Vicki Rogers

Bubbles is the family cat.
I call her Bubbles cause she's fat.
She won't chase mice or balls of string,
She won't do much of any thing.

But when I go to sleep at night.
She lays beside me snuggled tight.
And keeps me warm down to my feet,
Until mom calls, "It's time to eat."

Fruit

By Linda McReynolds



I crunched an apple. I munched a pear.
I nibbled a peach and plum.
With every piece of fruit I ate
My mouth said "Yum, yum, yum!"



Book Reviews

Fantastic Reads for Spring

By Nancy A. Cavanaugh

Title: *Wishes for One More Day*

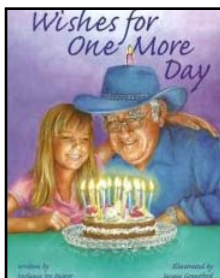
Author: Melanie Joy Pastor

Illustrator: Jacqui Grantford

Publisher: Flashlight Press

ISBN: 0972922571

In *Wishes for One More Day*, Anna and her brother Joey wake up to discover that their grandfather has passed away. They're sad that they weren't able to say good-bye to him. They spend the next few hours creating a book of the things they wished they could do one more time with Poppy then share the book with their mother.



This is an excellent book for a child who has just lost a loved one and isn't sure how they should feel. Author Melanie Joy Pastor has done a wonderful job in dealing with this very sensitive and emotional topic. Jacqui Grantford's soft pastel pictures lend a hand in softening the turmoil that frequently accompanies the death of a loved one.

Title: *Rudy Rides the Rails*

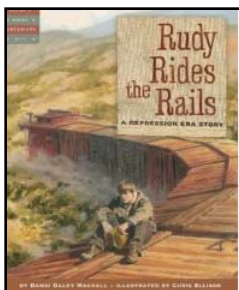
Author: Dandi Daley Mackall

Illustrator: Chris Ellison

Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press

ISBN: 1585362867

Rudy Rides the Rails takes place during the 1930s and the Great Depression. Based on the true story of Rambling Rudy, the book follows Rudy as he leaves home to help lighten the burden on his family. Rudy catches a train and meets the first of many new people and discovers there's a lot more to life on the road than meets the eye. Rudy eventually finds his way back home and to his family, taking with him all the lessons of being a hobo with him.



Dandi Daley Mackall shares this moving story about the real life trials of being a hobo

during the depression era in a way that will appeal to young readers. The illustrations help paint the picture of how bleak things were for people with Chris Ellison's use of warm colors. I definitely recommend this book for a look back at our history.

Title: *S is for Shamrock*

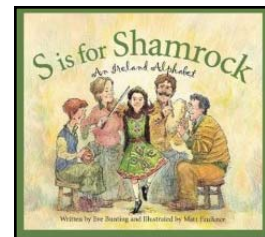
Author: Eve Bunting

Illustrator: Matt Faulkner

Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press

ISBN: 1585362905

S is for Shamrocks is a lively alphabet book about Ireland. As with other books in this series, you learn all about Ireland through prose and the sidebar that accompanies each letter.



Eve Bunting captures the essence of all things Irish with her prose and the factual information that is provided. The vibrant pictures by Matt Faulkner bring home the feel of the people and culture of Ireland. This is definitely a fun and interesting book.

Title: *Brewster the Rooster*

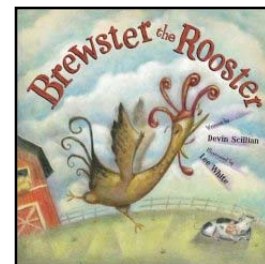
Author: Devin Scillian

Illustrator: Lee White

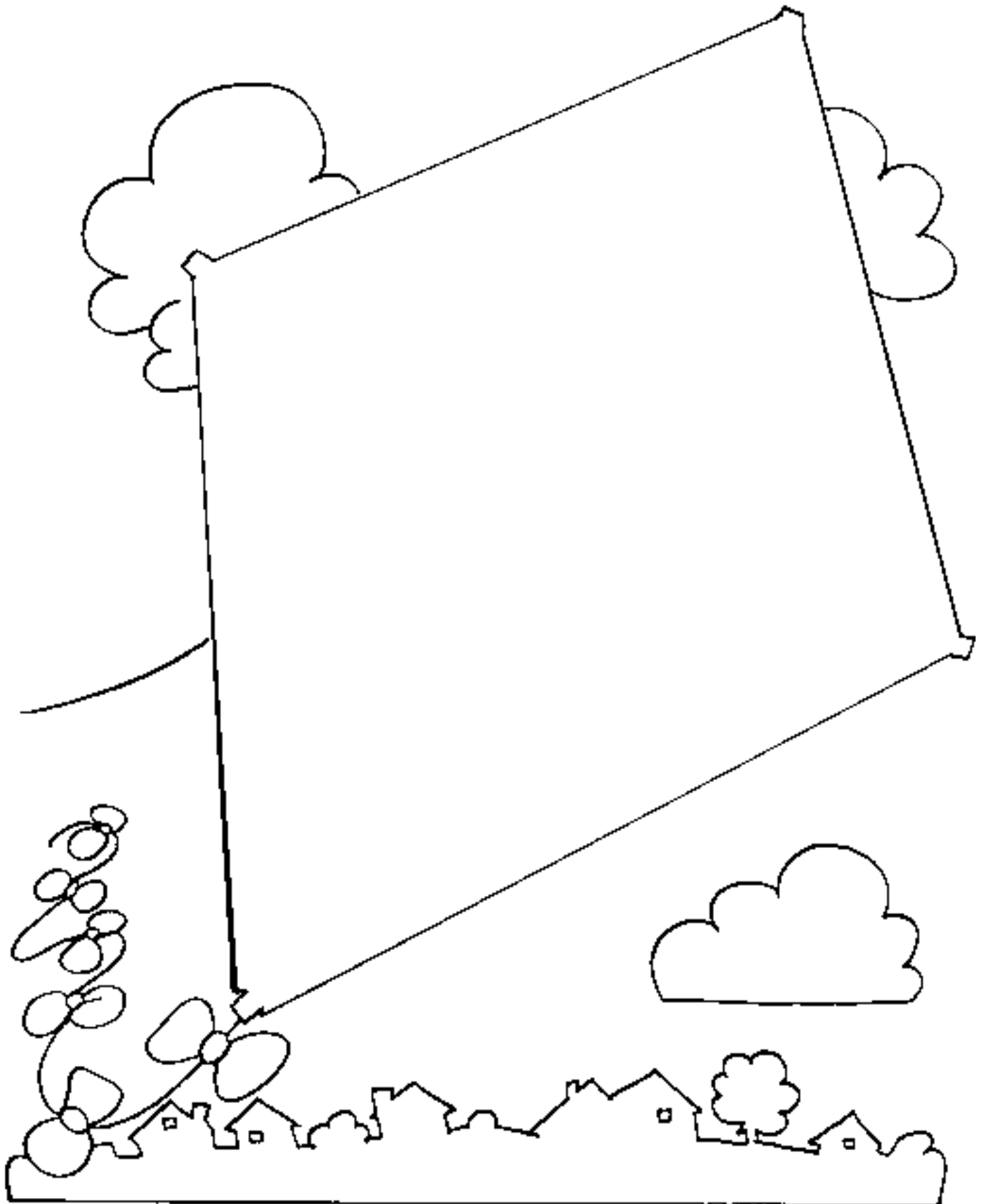
Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press

ISBN: 1585363111

A Brewster is a rooster with a problem: he cock-a-doodle-does at the oddest times! When the Macintosh family can stand it no more they take Brewster to see the doctor but it is little Julie that finds the speck-tacular solution and ends the aimless cock-a-doodle-doo-ing.



Devin Scillian's light-hearted prose makes for a fun and humorous read. Lee White's illustrations are a bright and make a perfect match for this story. I would definitely add this to your spring reading list!





MEET THE WRITERS

Pam Halter is a children's author and former homeschooling mom. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, two daughters and three cats. Her books, "Beatrice Loses Her Doll" and "Beatrice's New Clothes" can be found on amazon.com.

Maria Gianferrari is a member of SCBWI. Her publication history includes a nonfiction article, "Lucy and Tina: Four Ears and a Tail," published in the February 2006 issue of Highlights for Children magazine. A poem, "Labrador Winter", and a fictional story, "Dear As Salt", have also been accepted by Highlights. Dragonfly Spirit, Wee Ones, and Fandangle magazines have also recently accepted her work.

Ruth Wacker enjoys writing for children and guest-teaching at her sons' school. She has been published in the local newspaper, as well as on websites of The Institute of Children's Literature and Kid Magazine Writers. She is a member of SCBWI and hopes to author children's books someday!

SariAnne Miller is a writer, mother, and teacher. She holds a Master's Degree in Teaching and loves the brightness children bring to her life. In addition to writing, she loves to swim, knit, crochet, and cook. She has three children, one husband, and two pets. Please visit www.sariannemiller.com.

Maribeth Uralrith lives in a small town in the Midwest. She is a teacher and recently has obtained a Masters in Education. She is the co-founder and co-writer of the "Cookies and Milk" newspaper column; a newspaper for children and is currently writing her first novel for adolescents.

Carol G. Stratton is the mother of four children. She has written for the Grand Rapids Press, The Zionsville Times Sentinel, Purpose magazine. As a member of SCBWI, She has attended many writing conferences to hone her skills. Currently she is working on publishing a picture book and a chapter book about life in a small northern Michigan town.

Dana Cleveland Konop is a freelance writer, soccer mom, and former teacher. Her

work has appeared in Once Upon a Time, and will be appearing in upcoming issues of Highlights for Children, and Storiesforchildren.tripod.com. Her most recent awards are two honorable mentions in the National Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition.

Shannon Bennett lives in Washington with her husband and two children. She loves writing, drawing and reading. She also enjoys being able to teach in the Pioneer Club.

Kristy Olive is a freelance writer and a Health and Safety Consultant. She lives in north Alabama with her husband, two children and several pets. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Kevin Scott Collier is a children's book author and illustrator. He is under contract for Baker Trittin Press, Guardian Angel Publishing, and New World Publishing. Visit his website at www.kevinscottcollier.com.

Donna Alice Patton is a freelance writer, daycare provider and homeschooling aunt who lives in rural Ohio. Her favorite topic is the Old West, the setting of her latest work in progress, "The Hooky Playing Fiasco".

Charlotte Mayo is a freelance writer and lives in the western mountains of Maine. She is married to a fireman, has two grown daughters and spends time with her nine year old granddaughter. Charlotte's hobbies include: reading, writing, animals, camping, traveling, crafts, photography and life in general.

Marianne Nielsen lives in Ottawa, Canada with her husband, two young sons, one young dog, one very old cat, and one busy gerbil. She loves to write poetry, short stories, and books for children. Her work has been published and accepted for publication by Three Leaping Frogs, Kid Magazine Writers, Wee Ones Magazine, Cecil Child Magazine, Dragonfly Spirit, Story Station, Stories for Children, and Once Upon A Time. She can be reached at poet4kids@yahoo.ca.

Kellee Kranendonk is a stay-at-home mom of three. Raising them fanned the flames of

curiosity about the English language, and eventually "The Cat's Out of the Bag. . . Well, Almost" was born. In addition to several children's stories, poems and articles, Kellee also has several adult stories and writing articles published.

Amy Hagerty lives in Tiverton, Rhode Island with her husband James, their daughter Claire and many dogs and cats. In her spare time, she enjoys writing poems and short stories for her family. Her story, "Grandpa's Treasure" will be featured in the September 2008 issue of Stories for Children Magazine.

Vicki Rogers' poetry has appeared in several on line magazines such as Today's Woman, The Pink Chameleon, and Holistic Junction. She has had three poems published in Poetic License Magazine. Vicki has also been accepted for publication in the Fun for Kidz issue of Fun with Rocks in 2008, and Boy's Quest Computer Issue for 2007. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and Rhyming Critters 2.

Rolli (like his two sisters) is a painter and writer hailing from Regina, Canada. You can write to him at charlesmanderson@hotmail.com.

Evelyn B. Christensen is a teacher who loves to create things to make learning fun. She has seven math games and twenty puzzle books on the market with nine more coming out soon. She invites you to visit her website and have fun with the puzzles and activities there: echristensen.atspace.com.

Tara Robbins is a children's writer who currently lives in Colorado with her two children and her husband. She's a stay at home mother who loves writing, reading, and family time. Her work will be featured in Dragonfly Spirit Sept 2007 and Mum's M@il July 2006.

Linda McReynolds lives in Illinois with her husband and two children. She is a member of the SCBWI and has had numerous poems published in a variety of children's magazines. Her work can also be found in the poetry anthology Itty-Bits of Bliss (Tangerine Sky 2006).

Math Fun: Sudoku Puzzle

	3	4			6			7
		7	8	1			6	
1	8	6	3		2	4	5	
		9	6	8				2
6								4
7				9	5	6		
	9	2	5		7	1	4	8
	7			3	8	9		
8			2			3	7	

Sudoku puzzles are fun and challenging. Can you solve this puzzle?

Instructions:

Use the numbers provided to fill in the blank squares so that each number, 1 to 9, appears in every column, row, and block of the completed puzzle.

Strategy:

Search for a row or column or block that has many of its squares already filled in.

In the puzzle to the left, row 3 might be a good place to start because seven of the nine numbers in row 3 are already provided. The numbers 1, 8, 6, 3, 2, 4, and 5 are provided.

Go from square to square, lightly writing in the corner of each square what numbers could possibly go there. As you eliminate numbers you can erase the ones that no longer apply from the box.



Lost Apple Maze

By Nancy A. Cavanaugh

Something is missing from Mrs. Smith's desk? Can you help her find her apple that has disappeared?

