TEACH LANGUAGE ARTS Picture Books for the Classroom

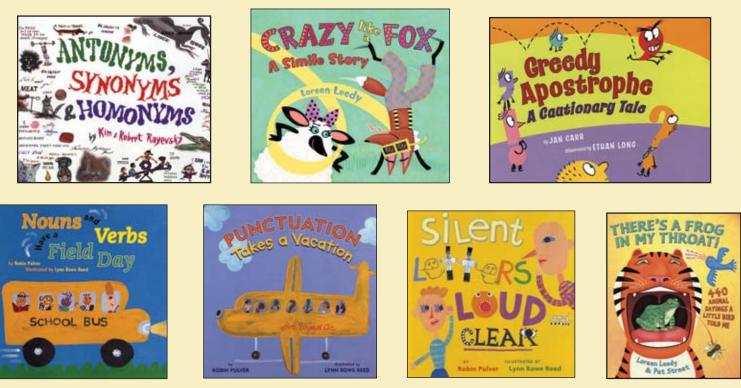
An Educator's Guide from Holiday House

Getting Started

If you've been looking for a fresh way to engage your students in the language arts, then you've found a number of terrific titles from Holiday House. Grades K-3

From punctuation to homonyms, to similes and more, your students will be

entertained, amused, and educated by topics they've only groaned about before. Vibrant and hilarious illustrations will capture your children's imagination and help lock down key concepts with a fresh approach. Share with your students interviews with the books' creators, questions to increase their comprehension, and a wide variety of activities from across the curriculum.





Ioliday House 425 Madison Avenue • New York, NY 10017 • www.holidayhouse.com

ANTONYMS, SYNONYMS & HOMONYMS

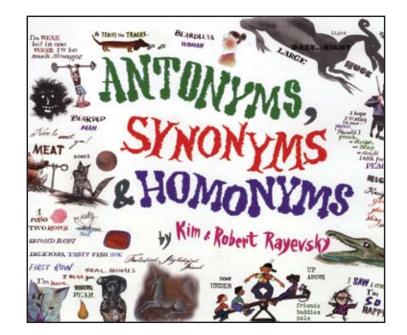
by Kim & Robert Rayevsky



Ages 4–8 HC: 978-0-8234-1889-3

ABOUT THE BOOK

Vroooom! A UFO zooms in for a landing, and out pops a mischievous alien. As he discovers Earth ways, his hilarious antics turn out to be terrific examples of antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms. Through witty illustrations and a clear and concise text, this trio of language concepts will stick with kids as they laugh over this clever picture book.







- What lands in the city?
- How is the alien a lot like a young child? How do kids learn what is naughty and nice?
- Would you rather go high up or deep down? Why?
- What is the antonym for *friendly* in the book? Can you think of another?
- If you could only speak in synonyms or antonyms, which would you choose? Why?

- Which illustration is your favorite? Why?
- What are some synonyms for *kids*? *Fighting*? *Getting along*?
- What are homonyms?
- Which homonym set do you think is the most confusing?
- Define *synonyms* and *antonyms* in your own words.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Ask each student to write a letter to a partner in class about the book he or she is currently reading. Then each person must rewrite the letter using as many synonyms as possible. Offer awards for the most creative or most synonyms used.

Now, as a challenge, have students rewrite using antonyms!

Ask students to create a crossword puzzle of his or her own invention with synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms as the only clues.

ART

Illustrate, sculpt, or use collage techniques to illustrate the meanings of the following homonyms:

blue/blew

deer/dear ate/eight we'll/wheel one/won waist/waste week/weak

role/roll

bald/balled

sight/site/cite

mane/main

About the Author and Illustrator

Robert Rayevsky learned English in the dining room of the great Concord Hotel in the Catskills while working there as a busboy, soon after emigrating from his native Russia. He always thought that a *homonym* was some kind of flu medicine until he married...

Kim Rayevsky grew up in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and learned English in the Shipley School for Girls there. That certainly made her better qualified to select the words for this book, which she did. Kim and Robert live in Parksville, New York, with their children, cats, and a miniature dachshund that does not know his head from his tail. Their website is **www.rayevsky.com**.

CRAZY LIKE A FOX A Simile Story

by Loreen Leedy



Ages 4–8 HC: 978-0-8234-1719-3

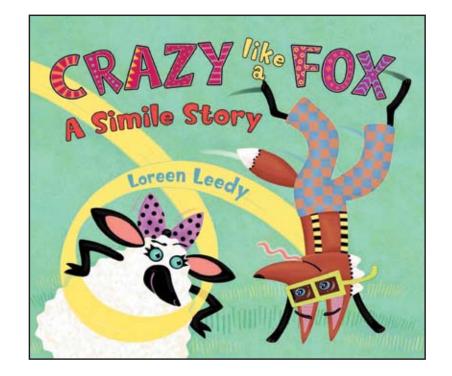
ABOUT THE BOOK

Don't be as stubborn as a mule—come along with Rufus on his adventure when he learns a lot about similes! Don't be nervous (like a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs). Rufus will guide you along the way!

Pre-reading

Have you ever heard of a simile before? Can you make up one?









- What do similes do?
- Why do you think we use them?
- List two clichés.
- Brainstorm a list of idioms.
- Who is the main character?

- Where does the story take place?
- Which animal is your favorite? Why?
- Which similes have you heard before?
- What is your favorite simile in the book? Why?
- Why was Rufus being led to the cave?



My New Similes!

10. cheeks like roses

Rewrite the following ten common similes in new and

LANGUAGE ARTS

Word Match

Match the following similes to their meaning:

		surprising ways to describe the same thing.	
1. He's as still as a	A. penny	Common Similes	Your uncommon comparisons:
2. He snores like a	B. picture	1. as light as a feather	Ex: as light as a snowflake
3. She's as busy as a	C. chain saw	2. as cold as ice	
4. She's as bright as	D. mouse	3. as green as grass	
5. He runs like the	E. bell	4. as hungry as a bear	
6. She's as pretty as a	F. drum	5. as sweet as honey	
7. He's as quiet as a	G. lamb	6. as stubborn as a mule	
8. She's as innocent as a	H. wind	7. as dry as a bone	
9. My ears are ringing like a	I. stone	8. as deep as the ocean	
10. My heart is beating like a	J. bee	-	
		9. as bright as the sun	

Mad Lib Similes

List the following things by filling in the mad lib!

1. your name 2. a place	7. specific period of time	Once there was a student named who liked to sleep on the It made him/her	
3. an animal	aimal8. article of clothinglook like animal9. plural nounthough, he/she feor vegetable9. plural nounthat he/she zips ofher word10. type ofReading is the besttransportationhis/her favorite not	look like a When the sun comes up, though, he/she feels as fresh as After	
 fruit or vegetable weather word 		that he/she zips off to school like a Reading is the best part of the day when he/she opens his/her favorite novel called <i>The Adventures of</i>	
6. noun	11. verb 12. place	Math class feels like followed by lunch, which tastes like, After that, recess is sure to be a hit when it starts raining like	
	*	pouring out of the sky. Finally it is time to go home on the and begin to for tomorrow at	

About the Author

Loreen Leedy was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She majored in art in college but wasn't sure what kind of artist to be. She began making polymer clay jewelry and chess sets and selling them at craft shows. The pins, earrings, and chess pieces were of whimsical pigs, cats, dragons, and other animals. At the age of twenty-five she began turning her jewelry pieces into book characters. She has written and illustrated more than thirty picture books and is working on one right now in her studio in central Florida. Loreen's husband, Andrew Schuerger, is a scientist who works on space biology research at Kennedy Space Center. Visit Loreen online at **www.loreenleedy.com**.

GREEDY APOSTROPHE A Cautionary Tale

by Jan Carr

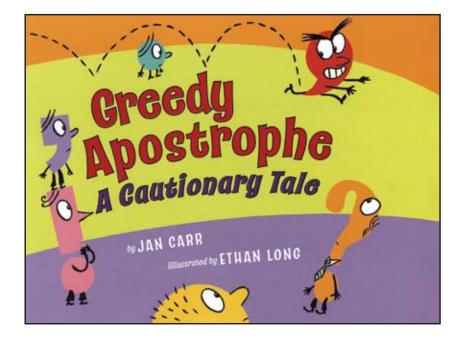
illustrated by Ethan Long



Ages 6–8 HC: 978-0-8234-2006-3

ABOUT THE BOOK

Uh-oh! Greedy Apostrophe is on the loose and causing trouble! Why can't he do his job like all the other punctuation marks—happy to be of service to readers? No, Greedy Apostrophe wants to be something he isn't; and he doesn't care if he confuses readers, either. Learn how to control this feisty little fellow before he makes his marks on your own papers where he doesn't belong.







- Why are the punctuation marks going into Hiring Hall?
- List the different types of punctuation marks. In total, how many do we use in the English language?
- Why is the Punctuation Oath important? What does it remind us that punctuation is actually for? What types of oaths do you take?
- Where do the marks get assigned for the day? Why are quotation marks needed for interviews?
- What punctuation mark is needed for contractions? What does this mark do?

- What does it mean to show possession? How are apostrophe marks supposed to help?
- Why can't apostrophe marks be used to make plurals? How does this get Greedy Apostrophe in trouble?
- What words are written with incorrect apostrophe marks in the book? Why?
- Create a list of five phrases where apostrophe marks are actually needed.
- Where are the four places you should see an apostrophe?



LANGUAGE ARTS

Reproduce the following and ask students to fix the Greedy Apostrophe errors:

Jennas'	dog	
2	()	

Mr. Longs's Rules'

Amys Markers'	

Robe's and gowns'	
RODUS and gowins	

toys' and books's _____

letter's and number's _____

flower's and grass'

windows' and door's _____

Behave, Greedy Apostrophe!

Write down the rules for using the apostrophe appropriately. Be sure to illustrate each rule to help you remember it. Post the list inside your writer's notebook or around the classroom.

Apostrophe Treasure Hunt

Highlight apostrophes you find in the newspaper. Then pretend you will get a nickel for each one that is used. How much will you earn on one page of your newspaper? How much will you earn if you receive a quarter for each apostrophe you find?

ART

Cut out large punctuation marks from construction paper of various colors. Then, using magazines or your own pictures, draw illustrations that help you remember when to use these marks. For example, a train barreling down on a bicyclist and the words "STOP!" for an exclamation point.

PUNCTUATION BEE

Students are given a short phrase or sentence to punctuation correctly. These can be printed on index cards or, for a greater challenge, just read them aloud to each student. Then students must write the word or phrase on the board correctly. A mistake disqualifies the student. Last person standing is Punctuation King or Queen!



About the Author and Illustrator

Jan Carr is a former Head Start teacher and children's author whose titles include *Sweet Hearts; Dappled Apples; Frozen Noses;* and *Splish, Splash, Spring,* of which *Booklist* said, - "Carr's bouncing rhymes are full of choice adjectives" and went on to laud the "auditory fun." She lives in New York City.

Ethan Long is a popular children's book illustrator whose work includes *Halloween Sky Ride* by Elizabeth Spurr and *Mañana, Iguana, Fiesta Fiasco,* and *Count on Culebra: Go from 1 to 10 in Spanish,* all by Ann Whitford Paul. His work has been exhibited in the Society of Illustrators New York and Los Angeles shows. He lives in Florida with his family. Visit his website at **www.ethanlong.com**.

NOUNS AND VERBS HAVE A FIELD DAY

by Robin Pulver

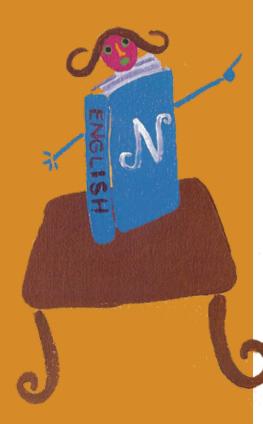
illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed

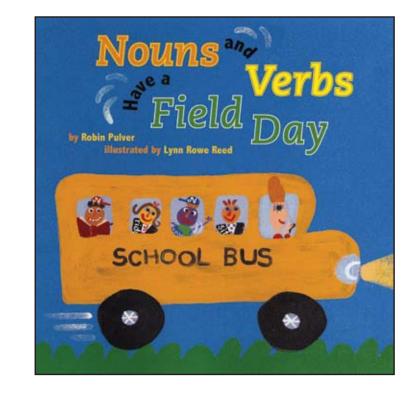


Ages 5–8 HC: 978-0-8234-1982-1 PB: 978-0-8234-2097-1

ABOUT THE BOOK

It's Field Day in Mr. Wright's class and not just for the students. Nouns and verbs want to play their own games, such as tug-of-words and three-legged races. But wait! No one is getting anywhere. First nouns and verbs will have to learn about the kind of teamwork needed to make a sentence.









- Make a list of five nouns and five verbs in your own classroom.
- In this story, why were the nouns and verbs left alone?
- Describe Field Day at your school. If you don't have one, imagine one.
- At first, how did the words pair up? Why didn't that work?
- How did they realize their mistake? Then what did they do?
- Which team had capital letters? Why? Find three capital-letter words in your classroom.

- Explain the difference between a strong verb and a weak one. How can you tell the difference? Give examples of each.
- Which nouns were hiding from which verbs? Why? Can you think of other funny pairs?
- What was wrong in the classroom when the kids return?
- Who had more fun—the words or the kids? What makes you think so?





LANGUAGE ARTS

Bring in newspapers, magazines, and other printed materials and have the children cut out nouns and verbs. They can either glue them onto separate large pieces of construction paper or onto pieces of cardstock to add to the classroom collection in a bucket, jar, or basket.

Verb Charades

Just as the words did on their field day, play verb charades. Grab words from the class bucket or basket (or from a newspaper) and take turns acting out these actions!

Compound Nouns

Brainstorm a list of compound nouns. For fun, create new words and illustrate them.

Nouns and Verbs Letter

Write a message similar to the one left on the board of Mr. Wright's class. Describe what you like to do on the weekend, leaving blanks to be filled in with nouns and verbs. Let a friend choose the answers.

NOUNS AND VERBS ART

Choose five random nouns and verbs from the class basket or bucket and illustrate them. Use only a pencil and eraser—no color. After ten minutes, discuss which group of words—the nouns or the verbs—was harder to illustrate. Why? Discuss how artists show movement in their work.

Create a flip book for one of the verbs that you picked. Show small changes on each page to reveal an entire verb from the beginning of your book to the end. Title your book!

MATH

Make a list of thirty words—fifteen nouns and fifteen verbs. Then, figure out three different ways to graph information from that list. For example, graph the number of syllables, number of letters, letters of the alphabet, or letters with which they start. Use your imagination and try to think of as many different ways as you can to create a graph out of a simple list.

MUSIC

Sing this song to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

Nouns and verbs have a field day, Happy as can be. Nouns and verbs use teamwork Just like you and me. Can you see them play hide-and-seek And try out tug-of-words too? Can you see them laugh themselves silly Just like me and you?

About the Author and Illustrator

Robin Pulver, the author of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* and its companion, *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day*, as well as *Silent Letters Loud and Clear* and other popular picture books for children, lives in upstate New York. Visit her online at **www.RobinPulver.com**.

Lynn Rowe Reed has illustrated numerous books for children, including Robin Pulver's *Punctuation Takes a Vacation, Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day, Silent Letters Loud and Clear,* and *A Story with Pictures* by Barbara Kanninen. She lives in Indiana, and you can visit her online at www.lynnrowereed.com/kids.html.

PUNCTUATION TAKES A VACATION

by Robin Pulver

illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed

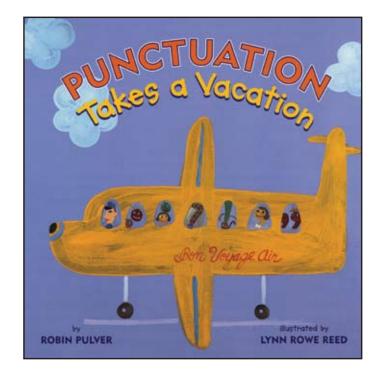


Ages 5–8 HC: 978-0-8234-1687-5 PB: 978-0-8234-1820-6

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Mr. Wright's class sends punctuation off on a vacation, the students learn how important those little marks can be for reading and writing!









- What did punctuation put up with in Mr. Wright's class?
- Describe what kind of day it was when the punctuation marks took their vacation.
- At first, how did the kids feel about the idea of giving punctuation a vacation?
- How do you know their attitudes changed over time? What clues were you given?
- What was the effect on reading and writing without punctuation?
- Why was Take-a-Break Lake a great spot for punctuation to have a vacation?

- Could you tell which punctuation mark wrote each postcard? What clues did you use to figure it out?
- Compare Mr. Wright's class's use of punctuation with Mr. Rongo's class's use of punctuation.
- How many punctuation mistakes can you find in Mr. Wright's class's letter?
- Why did the students mark their letter "urgent"? What does that word mean?
- Discuss which punctuation mark you think is the most important. Does it depend upon the genre in which you're writing or not?
- Which illustration is your favorite? Why?





LANGUAGE ARTS

Answer each of the postcards using the punctuation mark each would use most often.

Create punctuation "flags" (perhaps from the students' vacations?) using a variety of colored construction paper triangles (one color for each type of mark) and a box of unsharpened pencils. Cut out two triangles of the same small shape and color. On one side make a large picture of the punctuation mark and on the other a brief rule about when it is used (use the last page of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* as a guide). Then staple around the edges to secure the triangles to the eraser end of a pencil. Give each student a set of flags (or divide flags so each child has one). Display sentences without any punctuation (using an overhead projector or a laptop with a projector) and have children raise their flags to decide which mark is needed.

Write letters to friends or relatives but without any appropriate punctuation. Then have children trade and correct the letters.

MATH

Find out how much it costs to send a postcard. Next, figure out how much it cost all the punctuation marks to send postcards to Mr. Wright's class.

Next, calculate how much it would cost to reply to all of the postcards with as many letters. How much more does it cost to send one letter than one postcard? Why? How much more total would it cost?

Pretend that you get a nickel for each punctuation mistake you discover in the letter written by Mr. Wright's class. How much would you earn?

ART

Using all the punctuation marks and a variety of paper, create a collage. You might consider recycling newsprint as an interesting background.

DRAMA

Write a dialogue between two kids on the playground. Be sure to punctuate it appropriately (including quotation marks!). Then as you read, say which punctuation marks you used AS you read.

For example: Quotation mark, Capital D, Do you know Paul question mark, end quotation mark.

It can get really zany fast! But it's fun on a Friday afternoon although, warning: can be addictive!

MUSIC

Sing to "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain."

We'll be using punctuation as we write. We'll be using punctuation every night. We'll be using punctuation, We'll be using punctuation, We'll be using punctuation As we write!

We won't forget the commas in a list Or periods that finish sentences. Apostrophes can save us time Or say that something's hers or mine. Oh, we'll use punctuation as we write!

Exclamation points help us show surprise. Question marks ask the questions on our minds. Quotation marks can show who speaks, And colons tell the time to meet. Oh, we'll use punctuation as we write!

Repeat first stanza.

About the Author and Illustrator

Robin Pulver, the author of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* and its companion, *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day*, as well as *Silent Letters Loud and Clear* and other popular picture books for children, lives in upstate New York. Visit her online at **www.RobinPulver.com**.

Lynn Rowe Reed has illustrated numerous books for children, including Robin Pulver's *Punctuation Takes a Vacation*, *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day, Silent Letters Loud and Clear,* and *A Story with Pictures* by Barbara Kanninen. She lives in Indiana, and you can visit her online at www.lynnrowereed.com/kids.html.

SILENT LETTERS LOUD AND CLEAR

by Robin Pulver

illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed



Ages 4–8 HC: 978-0-8234-2127-5

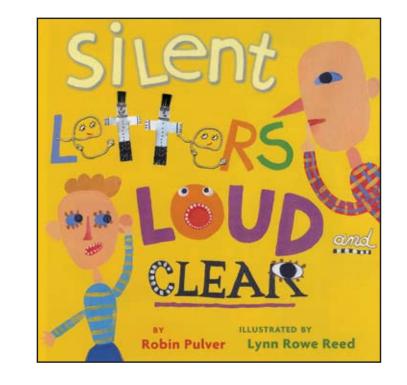
ABOUT THE BOOK

Wretched . . . dumb . . . a pain! Mr. Wright's class is through with silent letters. The students can't hear silent letters. They make spelling too tricky. Should silent letters be banned forever? From the creators of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* and *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day* come another dynamic grammar book with which both new and experienced spellers will identify.

Pre-reading

What is a silent letter? Are silent letters important, or could we just get rid of them?









- Where can silent letters be in a word?
- What does it mean that they "follow no rules"?
- Do you agree that good spellers are made, not born?
- Why don't the kids cheer for the silent letters?
- The kids think silent letters should be banned. What does it mean to ban something?

- Where did the silent letters decide to go? Can you blame them?
- What do they decide to do instead of scream or fight?
- What's wrong with the kids' letter to the editor? Does it mean something different than they meant?
- Why is it embarrassing? What do they decide to do? In the end, what happens?



LANGUAGE ARTS

Board Game

Create a simple board game and playing pieces. The board game should have rows of blocks that curve around, a Free Turn space or two, a Go Back Two Spaces space, and Start and I'm a Super-Silent-letter-Speller spaces. Glue inside a manila folder.

Create squares (the playing pieces) using the following words that contain silent letters: knee, knot, wrong, wrist, wrap, thumb, pterodactyl, orange, wished, face, home, saved, alone, picture, hide, practice, are, made, take, called, know, when, daughter, climb, knight, wriggle, fine, like, one, wristwatch, two, spelled, came, silence, dumb, use, should, could, would, what, write, who, hopefully, right, quite, why, wrote, know, stomach, numb, sighed, sight, flashlight, quite, castle, what, might, fight, bright, sign, gave, somebody, knock, bright, bravely.

Cut out the playing pieces and stack them like a deck of cards.

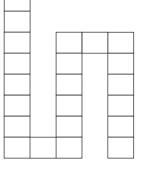
You'll need:

Game board Playing pieces Game markers (one per player)

To play:

The teacher or leader will choose a playing piece and announce the word. Players advance one space each time they correctly spell one of the silent-letter words. The first player to arrive at the I'm a Super-Silent-Letter-Speller space wins.

SAMPLE GAME BOARD:



SAMPLE PLAYING PIECES:

[

Word Sort

Using the word cards from the board game, print a page for each child and cut out. Next, children should sort the cards in the following categories: silent letters at the beginning of the word, silent letters in the middle of the word, silent letter toward the end of the word. In pairs, have students check their answers.

Find the Silent Letters

Use a variety of fun fonts and sizes to create a page of words that feature a silent letter. (See the Board Game list or choose some of your own.) Add the following directions for students and reproduce for classroom use.

Directions: Find and circle all the silent letters on this page! Check your answers with a friend.

About the Author and Illustrator

Robin Pulver, the author of *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* and its companion, *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day*, as well as *Silent Letters Loud and Clear* and other popular picture books for children, lives in upstate New York. Visit her online at **www.RobinPulver.com**.

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THERE'S A FROG IN MY THROAT 440 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me

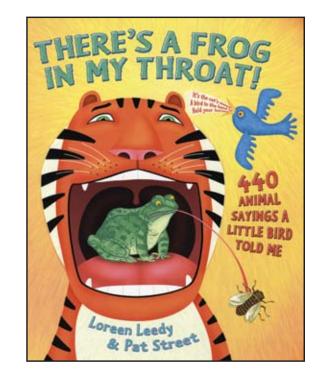
by Loreen Leedy & Pat Street



Ages 6–10 HC: 978-0-8234-1774-2 PB: 978-0-8234-1819-0

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is the cat's pajamas! You'll be bright eyed and bushy tailed when you've finished reading all these animal sayings. Simple definitions are paired with lively, detailed illustrations that help young readers understand the phrases. You'll be a hard dog to keep under the porch when you're done!







- How do you think most of these sayings began?
- Which one is your favorite? Why?
- Give an example of something at school that shows "It's a dog-eat-dog world." Do you believe this to be true or not? Why?
- Describe someone who is chasing "his or her own tail" while trying to do homework.
- Who is a "fat cat"? Who that you know has a cowlick?
- What do you like to "squirrel away"? Is there anything you'd like to "take a gander" at?

- Describe an 800-pound gorilla. (Well, not a real one!)
- In what year will your parents have an empty nest?
- What makes you as "happy as a lark"?
- Have you ever felt "green around the gills"?



LANGUAGE ARTS

Create new animal sayings for these common occurrences:

- lost something important
- thrilled with an event
- feeling dizzy
- worried
- someone who sleeps during the day
- someone who studies intensely
- moving very slowly
- divide the innocent from the guilty
- someone who always thinks he or she is right
- let's discuss something important
- bad dancer
- loves to eat

Or

Write a short play with a small group or partners in which you try to use as many of the animal sayings as you can and still have it make sense. Act out your scenes for the class or create a video.

ART

Create a diorama depicting a scene that illustrates one of the animal sayings. Use a shoe box to create your scene and any other materials from around the house—clay, dough, pipe cleaners, thread spools, recycled materials—that help you bring it to life.

Or

Using simple pop-up techniques, create cards or short books that illustrate several of your favorite animal sayings.

MUSIC

Sing this song to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" Then try to make up new verses using the animal sayings from the book!

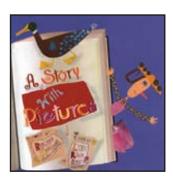
Are you barking up a tree? Will you never rat on me? Do you live high on the hog or lie just like a dog? Will it get your goat or put a frog in your throat? Don't worm it out of me!

About the Author and Illustrator

Loreen Leedy has written and illustrated more than thirty picture books, and is working on one right now in her studio in central Florida. Her most recent book is *Crazy Like a Fox: A Simile Story*. Visit her online at **www.loreenleedy.com**. Loreen's husband, Andrew Schuerger, is a scientist who works on space biology research at Kennedy Space Center. Their first collaboration is the book *Messages from Mars*.

After college, **Pat Street** became a copywriter for an advertising agency in New York City and started a collection of sayings and idioms to use in advertisements. Now she writes children's books and makes collages—both the cut-and-paste kind and the digital kind. She lives in Florida. Visit her online at **www.patstreet.com**.

Also Available from Holiday House

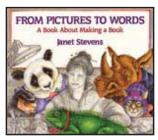


A STORY WITH PICTURES

by **Barbara Kanninen** illustrated by **Lynn Rowe Reed**

Ages 4–8 HC: 978-0-8234-2049-0

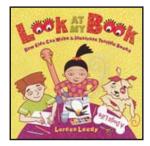
MORE HOLIDAY HOUSE TITLES ABOUT HOW TO MAKE A BOOK!



FROM PICTURES TO WORDS

A Book About Making a Book Janet Stevens

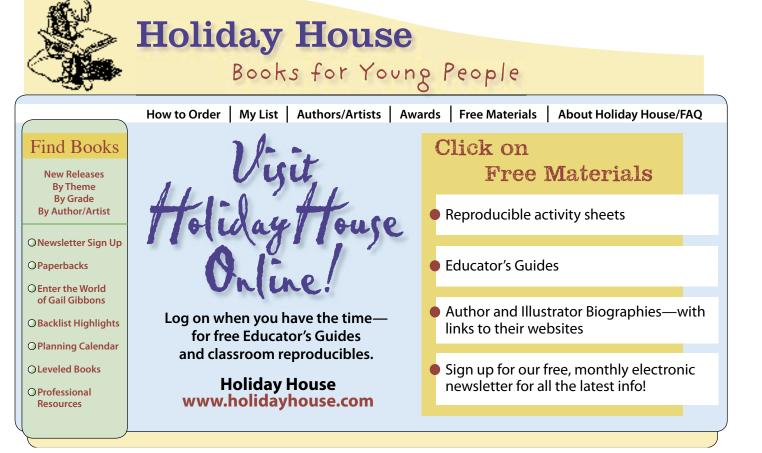
Ages 4–8 HC: 978-0-8234-1154-2 PB: 978-0-8234-1271-6



LOOK AT MY BOOK

How Kids Can Write & Illustrate Terrific Books Loreen Leedy

Ages 4–8 HC: 978-0-8234-1590-8 PB: 978-0-8234-1959-3





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This guide was written by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist and an award-winning children's book author. www.tracievaughnzimmer.com.