

December Challenges



As many of you know, Chris Van Dusen is my favorite author. Read a book written or illustrated by Chris Van Dusen to get a stamp in your passport.



PreK is studying animals this month. Read any book (fiction or nonfiction) about an animal, and I will happily stamp your passport!



Many people have challenges in their everyday lives due to a disability. Learn more by reading a book about someone with a disability. Come to the office to talk to me about your book, and I will stamp your passport.



During the month of December, people from around the world celebrate holidays. I challenge you to read a book about a holiday. Come to the office to get your stamp!



The PTO challenges students to think about reading a different type of book—specifically a graphic novel. There are graphic novels available in our library. You may also read a comic book to meet this challenge.



Egypt is our focus country for this month. The Vine Street School staff issues a challenge for students to “virtually visit” Egypt by reading a book about that country. See Mrs. Silk for your passport stamp.



Book Titles

Here are some books in our library you can use to meet each challenge.

Mrs. Silk's Chris Van Dusen Challenge

The Circus Ship

If I Built a Car

Mercy Watson

Mrs. Curtis's Holiday Challenge

3 French Hens

Cool Holiday Treats

The Elevator Family

Hannukkah Sweets and Treats

Mrs. Perrow's Animal Book Challenge

The Kissing Hand

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

The Incredible Journey

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

The Tale of Despereaux

Mrs. Beale's Special Needs Challenge

The Art of Miss Chew

Buddy the First Seeing Eye Dog

The Courage of Helen Keller

Vine Street School Staff's Egypt Challenge

A Visit to Egypt

Egypt

The Egyptology handbook

Mummies: Made in Egypt

PTO Graphic Novel/Comic Book Challenge

The Amulet series

Comeback Catcher

Dog Man

OR

Read the Sunday Comics Section

December Challenges

PreK-1

To earn a stamp, complete this page for any challenge you completed. Put the title of the book in the blank. In the space below write a complete sentence telling why you did or did not like this book. Parents of PreK and K students may write their children's answers in for them.



I accepted Mrs. Perrow's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted Mrs. Beale's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted the PTO's Challenge! I read _____





I accepted Mrs. Silk's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted Mrs. Curtis's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted the Vine Street School Staff Challenge! I read _____

When you have completed a challenge, tell your teacher. She will tell you when you can go to get your passport stamped. Remember each book can only be used for one challenge.



Reading Challenge Response Sheet

Grades 2-3

Congratulations on completing the first half of your challenge—you have read one of the books suggested by member. The second part of the challenge is just as important. We are asking you to write about your reading. It is important that whenever you write you give your best effort. Please complete this form and write at least 2-3 sentences about why you liked/or did not like the book.

Book Title _____

Author _____

Sample:

Book Title: *The Lightning Thief*

Author: *Rick Riordan*

I really loved the book *The Lightning Thief*. I enjoy reading books about the Greek gods especially Poseidon and Athena. I thought it was very creative for the author to write a book about their children. I especially liked the part where they had to fight Medusa.



Patricia Polacco's Thunder Cake Recipe

Many children are afraid of thunder storms. This book gives students a tasty activity to do during the storm. This could be adapted to make it a Snow Storm cake. Talk to your child about what ingredients you would need for a snow cake.

- 1 cup shortening
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 cup cold water
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup tomato puree
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cake flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cocoa powder
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Grease and flour two 8 1/2 inch cake pans.
3. Cream together the shortening and sugar.
4. Beat in the vanilla and egg yolks.
5. Mix in the cold water and pureed tomatoes.
6. Beat the egg whites until they are stiff and fold into egg/tomato mixture.
7. Sift the cake flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt.
8. Mix dry mixture into wet.
9. Pour batter evenly into cake pans.

Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick's *Stranger in the Woods*

What better way to spend a winter day than making a snowman? There is a very nice recipe to make a snowman animals can enjoy in the book *Stranger in the Woods*. This book is available in our library. To improvise if you do not have the book, simply make a regular snowman. Use a carrot for a nose. Use nuts for eyes, mouth and the buttons. Place bird see in the snowman's hat.

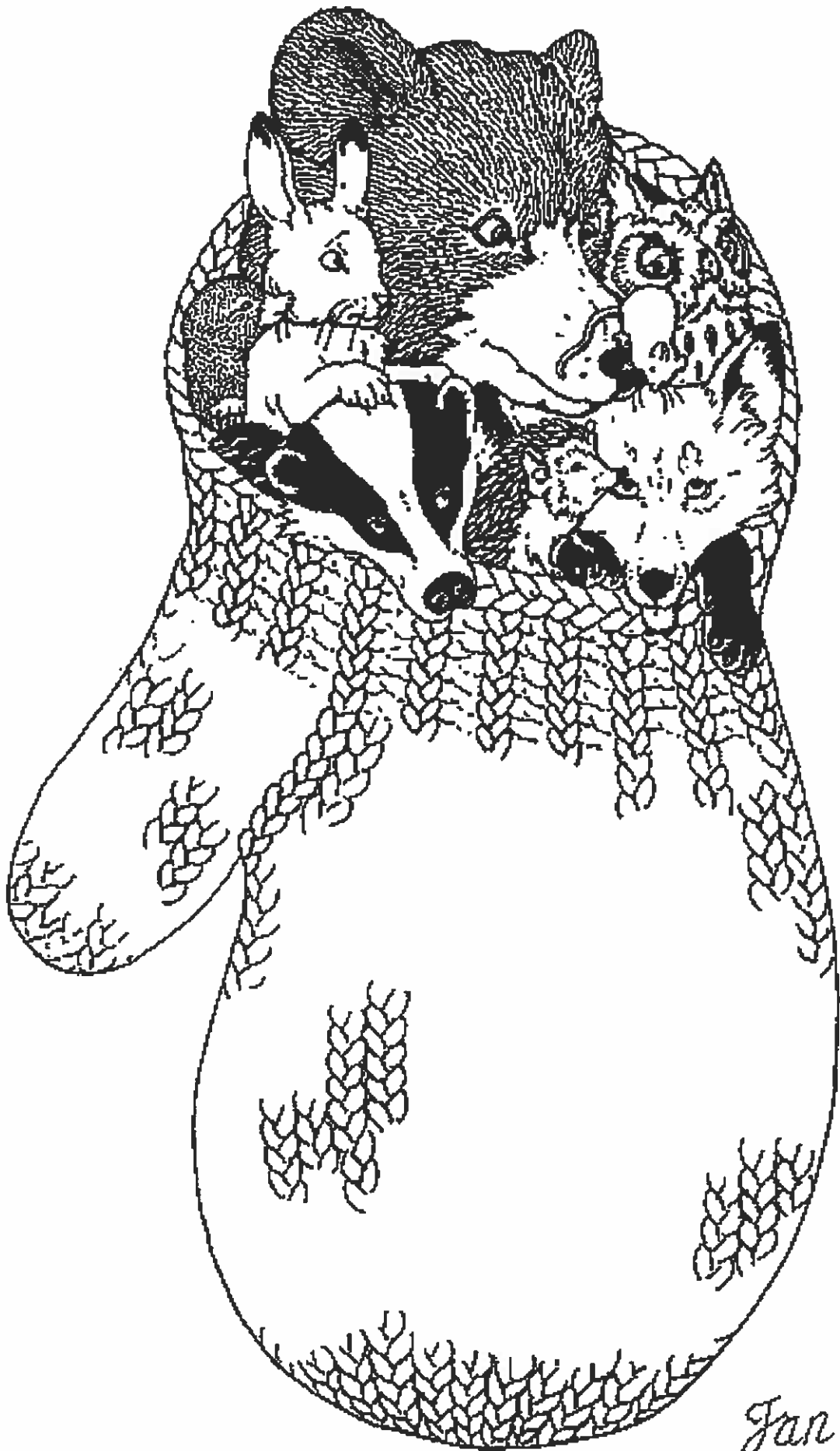


Jan Brett's *The Mitten*

When it comes to winter, Jan Brett literally wrote the book! Children love the tale of *The Mitten*. Attached to this newsletter is a coloring page to go along with a reading of *The Mitten*. This coloring page was downloaded from Jan Brett's web page. Check out the website for more coloring pages and activities to go along with her books.



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



Jan Brett