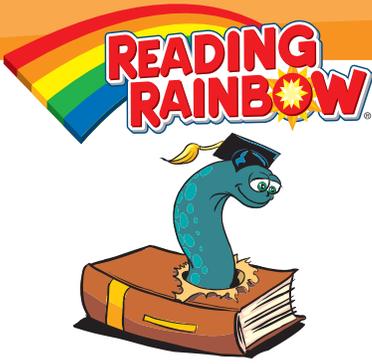


# STORY MAKERS



Episode	Segment
Rechenka's Eggs	Entire video
Simon's Book	Entire video
Raccoons and Ripe Corn	Entire video
The Furry News: How to Make a Newspaper	Feature book, comic strip creator
Regina's Big Mistake	Feature book, three artists

## Setting the stage:

- Set up a book corner with books showing a variety of artistic styles. Ask your media specialist for assistance to help gather the collection.
- Encourage students bring in their favorite pieces of artwork they have created and display them on or in front of a bulletin board.
- Display different types of art around the room, including three-dimensional art such as clay or wire sculptures.
- Bring in a variety of newspapers and magazines for students to look at. (Make sure they are appropriate for

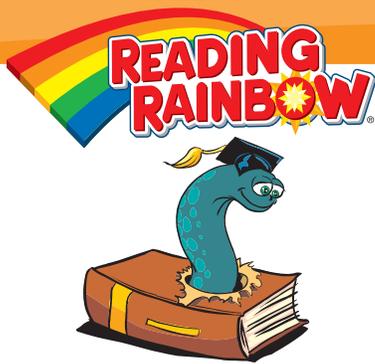
## Topics for Discussion:

- Discuss what it means to be an artist. Include in the discussion different types of artists and the variety of materials that artists use to create their art.
- Writing stories and creating artwork require imagination and creativity. Talk about what imagination and creativity are and how they are important in many different aspects of life.
- Pose these questions to students: If you could talk to an author or an artist, who would you most like to talk to and why? If you could ask that person one question, what would it be?
- After viewing Rechenka's Eggs, talk about how Babushka let the goose go even though she wanted the goose to stay. Discuss the importance of returning wild animals to their natural habitat after they have recuperated from an injury.
- After viewing The Furry News: How to Make a Newspaper, discuss different ways in which people get

## Activities to get started:

- After viewing Rechenka's Eggs, look around the classroom or playground for things that are elliptical in shape. When students spot something, have them write three clues about it on a piece of paper. After the search is completed, provide time for students to give their clues to the class to guess what is being described.
- Give students colorful markers and paper cut into an egg-shape. Have them create patterns on their eggs, as Patricia Polacco did in Rechenka's Eggs.
- Have students do a simple adaptation of the pysanky technique. Give them white crayons to draw designs on hard boiled eggs and then dip them in dye or paint them. For a paper adaptation, have students draw a design in crayon on an egg-shaped paper and paint over the design with watercolors.
- After viewing Simon's Book, give students white drawing paper. Have them use a colored marker to make a simple doodle or squiggle on the paper. Ask students to exchange papers. Students then draw a picture

# STORY MAKERS



Episode	Segment
Rechenka's Eggs	Entire video
Simon's Book	Entire video
Raccoons and Ripe Corn	Entire video
The Furry News: How to Make a Newspaper	Feature book, comic strip creator
Regina's Big Mistake	Feature book, three artists

## Activities to get started, con't.:

- Encourage the class to make posters about their favorite books. Display these posters in the hallways or in the media center.
- Have the students make books. Present them with some different ideas for book formats, such as accordion fold books, pop-up books, shape books (the shape of the book is the outline of an object), books written on scrolls, books with flaps that lift or open, or mix-and-match books (split pages fold down with unmatched pictures to create new illustrations). Students can also bind their stories in hard covers made from cardboard covered with wallpaper or contact paper. Cereal boxes cut to size and wallpaper from outdated sample books are great resources for these covers.
- After viewing Raccoons and Ripe Corn, go on a nature walk. Reinforce the attributes needed by a naturalist before starting out. Have students take pocket-size journals along for making lists of what they observe, taking notes, and sketching. Recycled paper cut into notepad size and stapled together makes good outdoor journals. Remind students to leave the space where they walk as undisturbed as possible, picking up only objects that have fallen to the ground rather than pulling them off plants, for example.
- Set up a display of objects from nature, such as pine cones, acorns, tree bark, leaves, feathers, and similar objects. These might be items that students bring in or things collected from the nature walk. Work with the art teacher and have students study the essential characteristics of one of the objects and make a sketch of it. Display the sketches above the table with the collection. An alternative activity is to create three-dimensional art actually using these objects from nature.
- After viewing The Furry News, let students have fun writing their own comic strips. Look at several comic strips in the newspaper for examples of what comic strips look like. Allow time for students to write their own comic strips and then share them with the class.
- Have students conduct a survey of favorite comic strips. Survey the class, the grade level, or even the whole school. Graph the results and display the graph for all to see.
- Bring in samples of different types of newspapers—daily, weekly, neighborhood, school, etc. Give students the opportunity to browse through the papers. Discuss the different sections and the information they find in each. Talk about what is in a newspaper besides news articles.
- After viewing Regina's Big Mistake, have students fold a piece of drawing paper into six sections. Supply them with a variety of art media, such as crayons, colored pencils, pastels, chalk, charcoal, Craypas, markers, and the like. Invite students to experiment with a different medium in each box. Have them focus on the use of each medium, such as the types of strokes, the pressure needed for drawing and coloring, the width of a line, the depth of color generated, the texture created, and the ease of use. Discuss their preferences.
- Provide a variety of different art media with which students can experiment, such as wire to create a wire sculpture, sidewalk chalk to draw a picture outside, clay, etc.