

ART ENCOUNTERS
EDUCATION PROGRAM
2004-2005

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE



Friends of the Arts
Regional arts Council PO Box 386,
Plymouth, NH 03264
603-536-1182
www.friends-of-the-arts.org

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE: Roberta Baker

This Friendly Clues Study Guide provides supplementary information and activities to enhance the upcoming Art Encounters Education Program at your school. The guide was developed to assist teachers in making connections between the arts enrichment program and their curriculum.

Inside you will find:

1. **Background information about the artist:**
2. **Student Activity sheets:** Your students can prepare for the experience by reading Roberta Baker's books and thinking about lists of words and ideas.
3. **Resource Links:** Suggested books/videos, and websites.
4. **Audience Responsibility:** Prepare your students for a live presentation.
5. **Letter to parents:** Let your community know what wonderful cultural program you provide for your students! Invite them to attend part of Roberta Baker's day at your school.
6. **Art Encounters Education Program History:** Serving schools since 1978!
7. **Program Evaluation Form:** Help us to continue improving how we serve your school!

Related Public Performance:
Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping and Other Stories

Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium, Meredith

Saturday, April 2 at 2pm!

Call Innisfree Bookshop at 279-3905 for ticket information.

1. Background Information about the Artist:

MEET Roberta Baker

Who: Roberta Baker was born in New York City and grew up on Long Island, where she learned to swim, play tennis, sail, and navigate the country's first large shopping mall. She has worked in England, Ireland, New York, and New England. Today she lives with her daughter and husband, Jim, who renovates riverfront mills, in a 200-year-old former tavern on a old apple farm they call the Fifty-Acre Wood.

Ms. Baker attended Middlebury College and is a graduate of Yale College and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a member of the New Hampshire Writers Project, the Vermont sub-local of the National Writers' Union, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She enjoys skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, swimming, yoga, and being a helper for her daughter's Brownie troop.

“As a writer, and between writing jobs, I've had a lot of different careers. I've worked as a waitress, disc jockey, tollbooth attendant, ski instructor, camp counselor, financial analyst, art teacher, set designer, designer of patterns on men's shirts, director of radio voice-overs, archaeological excavator, and assistant to a traveling veterinary pharmacist, tending sick cows and sheep.

As a newspaper reporter, I've written about everything from presidential elections to miniature golf. But my favorite occupation has been being a work-at-home mom. I think every parent experiences that overwhelming, awe-inspiring love for their child, an urge to express emotions that are so profound they're almost impossible to describe—and the motivation to do something special for the creature they bring into the world.”

What: Roberta will conduct a presentation on the writing/publishing process focusing on her books *No Ordinary Olive* and *Lizard Walinsky*, and will include readings of both. Roberta will then follow the presentation with writing exercise sessions with selected groups. The writing exercise will focus on themes from one or the other book. The friendship theme workshop is best for grades 3,4,5. The *No Ordinary Me* workshop is best for K-3.

When: Roberta Baker will be coming to _____ school on _____ at _____.

2. Student Activity Sheet

Suggestions for preparations from Roberta: TEACHERS: “It would be ideal if you could make this part of the homework assignment for the night before. Kids will get so much more out of the writing section if they come with ideas and are prepared to share them and write. It also makes for better discussion, question & answers, and helps them to feel more like writers and illustrators.”

“Students should be familiar with both books. Grades K-2- perhaps read once the day before.”

“I would like students to do a little preparation for the autobiographical writing exercise that follows my presentation on the writing and publishing process.

For “**No Ordinary Me**” (grades K-3) workshop inspired by **No Ordinary Olive** , students are asked to think about what makes them special or different. Students should come prepared with a short list, which can include favorite toys, hobbies, sports, collections, things they love to do with their free time.

Then they should think about a funny or interesting (or scary and suspenseful) thing that happened to them, something that would make a good story to tell others, and to illustrate.

For “**Friendship**” theme workshop (grades 3-5), with writing exercises inspired by **Lizard Walinsky**, students should make two lists of descriptive adjectives/phrases that describe themselves and a friend.

Then students should think of an adventure or a memorable activity shared with a friend(can also be a sibling or cousin). This can be something fun, funny, scary, sad, happy, surprising, or strange.

Students should be prepared to begin writing and illustrating.”

3. Resource Links: For More Information.....

Roberta's favorite books: Favorite children's books: anything by Roald Dahl, Rosemary Wells, Kevin Henkes, Cynthia Rylant, and Sharon Creech; as well as the classics, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Story of Dr. Dolittle*; plus poetry by Dennis Lee and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

<http://www.kidsreads.com/features/2002-baker.asp> Features a photo of Roberta and her summer reading list.

<http://www.bookloons.com/cgi-bin/Review.ASP?bookid=3220> Features a review of Roberta's newest book, Lizard Walinsky.

<http://pierce.state.nh.us/nharts/artsandartists/roster/roster.asp?txtName=&mnuCategory=%25&mnuRegion=%25&mnuDiscipline=LA&mnuPrograms=%25&Submit=Search> This is a list of authors on the New Hampshire State Arts Council artist roster.

Both of Roberta's books are available at Innisfree Bookshop in Meredith, as well as on line at Barnes & Noble

http://www.citizen.com/July2004/07.15.04/showcase/signing_07.15.04a.asp Citizen article on Roberta's signing at Innisfree Bookshop this summer.

4. History and Mission of the Art Encounters Education Program

The mission of the Art Encounters Education program is to expose and connect area students to a broad base of arts and cultures, through in-school and bus-in arts performances, hands-on workshops, and in-depth artists residencies. The goal is to introduce schools and students to artists and arts experiences from New Hampshire and around the world, which can be an integral part of school curricula and the overall learning process.

The Arts Encounters Program serves over 26 schools and 7500 –10,000 students annually, bringing seven-ten diverse artistic programs into our area schools during the school year. These musical, theatrical, dance, ethnic, and visual programs include in-school presentations and bus-in performances held at Silver Cultural Arts Center at Plymouth State University.

About Friends of the Arts, Regional Arts Council

Mission : To present quality visual and performing arts that are affordable and accessible to children and adults both as observers and participants. We are dedicated to arts education, enrichment and improving the patronage and support of New Hampshire artists.

The History of Friends of the Arts

Friends of the Arts, a non-profit regional arts council, was founded in 1973 by a group of faculty members and representatives from the Plymouth State College community. The organization now serves a geographic region of over 36 small towns (POP.500-5000) in Central New Hampshire. Our programs are designed to reach year-round residents of all ages and backgrounds, and to provide both visual and performing arts experiences at affordable prices. Two major programs provided by Friends of the Arts are the Performing Arts Series and the Art Encounters school performance program. Each year we serve approximately 20,000 children and adults throughout the region. We use the art, music, and theater facilities at Plymouth State College for classes, performances, exhibits and office space; an in-kind donation.

5. Audience Responsibilities: Preparing Students for Live Presentation

When students attend a live presentation for the first time, they often do not realize how different it is from watching a movie or show on TV. A live presentation has not been pre-recorded, with mistakes edited out. This makes it riskier for the performer and more exciting for the audience. It also means that the audience has a real contribution to make to the overall event. Each audience member affects those around him/her as well as the performer. The more the audience gives to the performer, the more the performer can give to the audience. Because of this important audience role, we suggest teachers pass on the following guidelines to their students:

- **Prepare for the presentation** by reading any background information available.
- **Welcome the artist** to your school by clapping after they have been introduced.
- **Give your energy and attention** to the artists. Laugh when you think something the performer is doing is funny. Clap after a song or section you particularly enjoyed.
- **At the end of the presentation**, clap to show respect for the performers' time and energy. If you were disappointed in the show, clap softly. If you think it's the best show you've ever seen, give the performers a standing ovation.
- **Do not** eat, drink, or chew gum in the performance space.
- **Use the bathroom facilities before** the presentation begins. Please do not get up during the presentation unless absolutely necessary, as this disturbs the people around you as well as the artists.
- **Do not talk** during the presentation as it disturbs the people around you.
- **If there is a question/answer period**, consider asking appropriate questions about what you saw/heard in the presentation, about what it is like to create that kind of presentation, about the country or culture the artist has come from.
- **ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!**

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Dear Parents,

Your child will be experiencing an Art Encounters Education Program presentation on _____ at your school. The visiting New Hampshire author is Roberta Baker. Roberta is the author of the popular children's books, **No Ordinary Olive** and **Lizard Walinsky**.

Roberta Baker was born in New York City and grew up on Long Island, where she learned to swim, play tennis, sail, and navigate the country's first large shopping mall. She has worked in England, Ireland, New York, and New England. Today she lives with her daughter and husband, Jim, who renovates riverfront mills, in a 200-year-old former tavern on a old apple farm they call the Fifty-Acre Wood.

Ms. Baker attended Middlebury College and is a graduate of Yale College and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a member of the New Hampshire Writers Project, the Vermont sub-local of the National Writers' Union, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She enjoys skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, swimming, yoga, and being a helper for her daughter's Brownie troop.

Please join us for the experience, if you are able!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Robinson
Program Director
Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council

For more information about this or other Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council programs, visit our website at www.friends-of-the-arts.org or call our office at 536-1182.

6. Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council

Art Encounters Education Program Evaluation Form 2004-2005

Thank you for including this Friends of the Arts Art Encounters Education Program presentation in your school's plan this year! We want to continue to serve you to the highest standards with age-appropriate and curriculum-based performances for your students. We value your professional evaluation and input about the recent Art Encounters performance. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it. Thanks!

- Art Encounters Education Program Presentation: **Roberta Baker**
- # of students attending _____ What grades attended? _____
- How did teachers use the Friendly Clues Study Guide?(check all that apply)
 - Students read Roberta's books
 - Teachers used Roberta's suggestions for homework before the presentation/workshop
 - Teachers followed up the presentation by having students finish/polish writing pieces
 - Other? Please Explain _____
- Please rate the Friendly Clues Study Guide information:
 - Not enough info Somewhat useful Useful Excellent
- How do you rate the overall quality of **Roberta Baker's** presentation?
 - Low quality OK Good Excellent
- How do you rate the educational content of the presentation as a whole?
 - Not educational Some applicable content Valuable Educationally Excellent
 Educational Content
- To what extent was there interaction between **Roberta Baker** and the students?
(1 being low, 5 being high) 1 2 3 4 5
- To what extent was the performance appropriate for the age/grades that attended?
1 2 3 4 5
- What do you think your students learned from this experience of **the writing process**?
- Do you have any suggestions for the kinds of performers you would like to see us sponsoring?
Any specific curriculum enrichment needs we could research?

- Do you use the NH State Frameworks for the Arts as a guide in your curriculum planning?
- Is there any part of the registration and performance procedures that we could change or improve? How can Friends of the Arts be more effective in serving you?
- Other comments?
- Please return this form to: Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council, PO Box 386, Plymouth, NH 03264 603-536-1182