

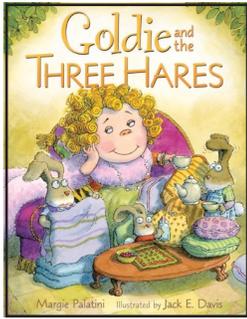


CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

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GOLDIE AND THE THREE HARES



The Hare family is having dinner when Goldilocks, fleeing from the three bears, falls down the hole. Having hurt her foot, she remains as a guest, but is a terrible one. How can the Hare family get rid of her?

Margie Palatini, Harper Collins,©2011, 978-0-06-125314-0

HOUSEGUEST MANNERS

Goldilocks is a living example of absolutely terrible houseguest manners. They are so bad, that students should be able to construct a “good house guest manners list” that consists of mainly doing the opposite of what she does. Challenge them in small groups to come up with a list of 10 Great House Guest rules. (They shouldn't forget bringing a gift for the host/hostess and sending a thank you note.)

PERSONAL WRITING (EXTREME WRITING)

Some topics for personal writing might be:

- Stories about sleepovers and other times I was a houseguest (grandmothers? sleepover?)
- Stories about injuries I have suffered in my life.
- House rules. If you were going to write them down, what are the house rules for your house? No shoes on the furniture. Brush your teeth before sleep. Make your bed? Say grace? Do the dishes? etc.

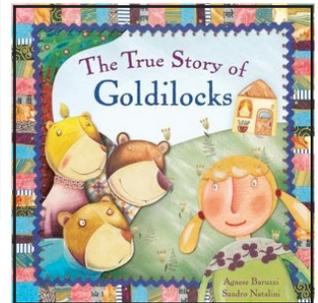
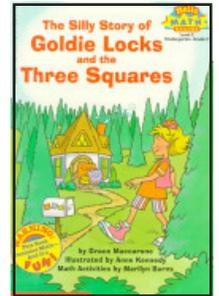
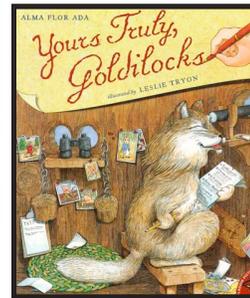
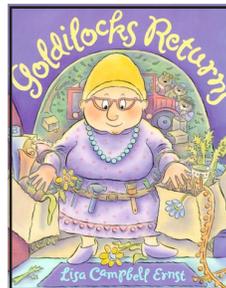
THE TRAILER

The trailer for this book is really a trailer..that is, it summarizes her departure from the three bears and then proceeds to describe how she is the “houseguest who won't leave.” Clever and fun. Just Google *Goldie and the Three Hares Trailer* and it appears as a YouTube.

OTHER “WHAT ELSE HAPPENS?” GOLDILOCKS STORIES

There are probably a lot more, but here are four more “take-offs” on the Goldilocks story:

- *Goldilocks Returns*
- *The Silly Story of Goldie Locks and the Three Squares*
- *Yours Truly Goldilocks*
- *The True Story of Goldilocks*



THE HISTORY OF GOLDILOCKS

The original story was fearsome and changed over time to the cozy story we know. Prior to 1813, the Goldilocks character was an old ugly woman who in some versions was actually killed by the bears. In around 1850 the story was re-told with a little girl as the character and the three bachelor bears became a family of bears. This was the time at which the rule of three became used: 3 bears, 3 chairs, 3 bowls of porridge, 3 beds.

Astronomers today search star systems for a planet in the “Goldilocks zone” - not too cold, not too hot, able to support life.

Discuss with students how *Goldie and the Three Hares* also reflects the rule of 3: 3 Hares, 1st they try veggies, 2nd they try a party, 3rd they try a skunk until finally they call in the threat of the 3 bears. Have them try this format, with the repetitions in a story of their own. It is quite an easy pattern to use.

There is also a repetition of the “lulu of a first step” 4 times in the book. Once when she steps in, second when mama says she had told papa to fix it, third when papa goes to fix it, and finally as a last line in the book when papa says “I have got to fix that lulu of a first step”. Ask students to listen for the repeat line as you read. Then ask the mto create a repeated funny line for their story.

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MARGIE PALATINO'S OTHER TAKES ON FAIRY TALES AND FABLES

Margie Palatino has written many books, but 4 of them make strong use of the fractured fairy tale or fable concept:

- ***Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes*** - the fable of the fox and the grapes
- ***Gone with the Wand*** - the story of the fairy godmother who tries out being the tooth fairy, etc.
- ***Earthquack*** - *The Sky is Falling* fable
- ***The Web Files*** - a mock Dragnet search for a fairy tale criminal

(I have done lesson ideas for all four of these picture-books. Margie Palatino also has a fairy tale guide pdf. on her website.)



THE "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT" FAIRY TALE

Give students a list of common fairy tales, and ask them to make up any story about what might "happen next" to the main characters in that fairy tale.

POST-MODERNISM

One of the characteristics of post-modernism is for stories to refer to things in the world "outside the story" as well as to other stories themselves. In this case, the next girl to fall through the lulu of a step into the Hares' house is Alice in Wonderland who says, "Pardon me. I say, has anyone seen a white rabbit lately?"

THE THREE STEP STORY

This format is a simple and effective one that students can use when writing any story, or indeed when writing non-fiction.

First, brainstorm around the topic. Let us imagine that it is *frogs* and part of the brainstorming reveals that they throw out their tongue to catch bugs, that the little pads on their feet help them cling to trees, that they absorb their tails and grow legs, and they use their throat pouches to attract mates.

Second, chose one characteristic and imagine something goes wrong. Imagine it is that he has a small throat pouch and makes a high squeaky croak rather than a deep one that carries through the swamp. Start by describing the character (Angelo LeFroig), his problem, and how it affects his life. For example, he is concerned about attracting a mate, and he doesn't like to hang around with his friends croaking.

Third, brainstorm three things he could try to do to help. One, he could stand next to his best friend who does have a deep croak. Two, he could use a bullhorn. Three, he could take voice training lessons.

Fourth, select one of these to be the solution that works. I suggest sitting next to a friend with a deep voice (who could be best man at his wedding).

Fifth, write the rest of the story, showing how he tries the other two but they fail. The bullhorn is really good, but he drops it into the water when the first girl frog arrives, and it nearly electrocutes him. When he tries the voice training lessons, they give him a lovely soprano voice but don't help him at all with deep croaking.

Then the solution you had chosen and it's done – your first best selling children's book. For more serious writing, the concept is to have three important things about the topic. The first one is the best; the last one is the second best, the middle is your weakest. That way you begin strong and end strong getting an **A** every time.

