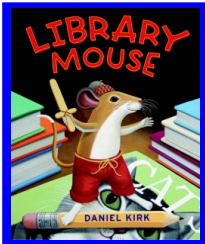




Cruchley's Collection

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.

H. Diana Cruchley©2013. dianacruchley.com



LIBRARY MOUSE

Daniel Kirk, Abrams Books, ©2007,
ISBN 13: 978-0-8109-9346-4

Sam, the library mouse, loved to read and finally decides he would like to write his own book. He puts his miniature books on the shelves and soon develops "fans." Eventually they want to meet him, but he finds a way to involve them in the writing for themselves.

CREATE YOUR OWN MINIATURE BOOKS

Design a shoe box with a "meet the author" sign and a mirror glued inside. At the significant point in the story, allow a student to look into the box to "meet the author." Continue the story, but when it is complete, use the "meet the author" box to include story idea strips from which students draw. Ask students to use the line drawn to start their own "mini-masterpiece."

A pattern for mini-books follow.

MINI-BIOGRAPHIES

Students may also enjoy writing their own biographies in the form of a mini-book. That way it would not be so daunting. Provide students with a list of typical possibilities in a biography and have them choose which stories to tell from their own life. (Be sure they understand that it is a biography and will be shared.)

MEET THE AUTHOR

If you are going to have an author visit to your school, this is a very nice way to introduce the entire concept of author visits.

THE CHILDREN'S REFERENCE AREA

Sam, the library mouse, lives behind the children's reference area. This is a good chance to review with the students what the areas of a library are. Create a map of your library, and ask students to find and write in the labels of sections.

Then challenge them to find and identify a list of books that require them to visit the sections to find where they are located in the library? (Like a scavenger hunt)

GENRES

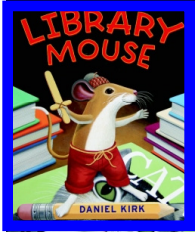
Students need to understand the word "genre". A genre has specific characteristics. People like genre movies and books because they know how much pleasure they are likely to get in return for their investment of time.

For example, a romance will have a woman and a man. Frequently she will be poor and he will be rich. They will not get along at first. There will be many misunderstandings and fights. Eventually they will discover the love each other and it ends happily.

In the library, Sam reads picture books, chapter books, biographies, poetry, cookbooks, sports books, fairy tales, ghost stories, and mysteries. Pictured as well are science fiction, pirate stories, and histories.

As a listening skill, ask students to listen for the genres as you read and make a list. See if they can identify some of the characteristics of the genres.





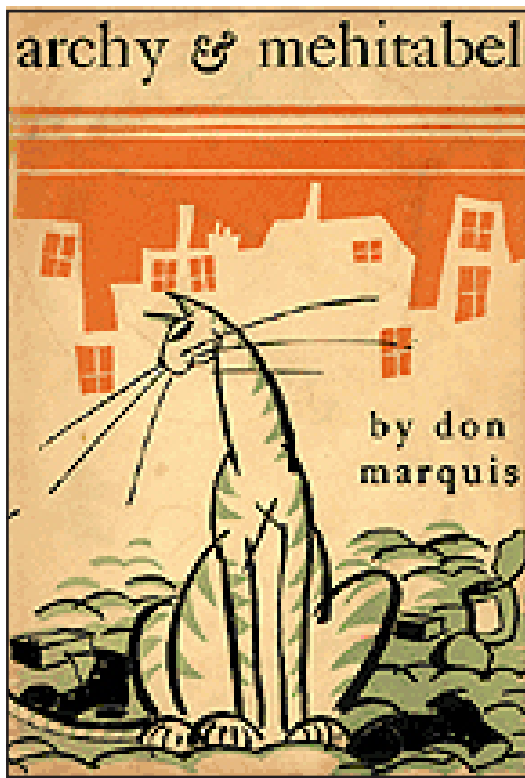
Library Mouse, page 2

ARCHY AND MEHITABEL

The famous 20th century creations of Don Marquis, a columnist for *The Sun Dial*, Archy (the poetic cockroach) and Mehitabel (the reincarnated alley cat) are an interesting pair to introduce to students to when they read *The Library Mouse*.

“Expression is the need of my soul,” declares Archy – but it could as easily be the Sam, the library mouse. Archy is a free-verse poet who dives head first onto the keys of Don Marquis’ typewriter to describe a cynical humorous cockroach’s eye view of the world. Because he can’t do upper case (can’t hold down the shift key) all of his “poems” are written in lower case without punctuation.

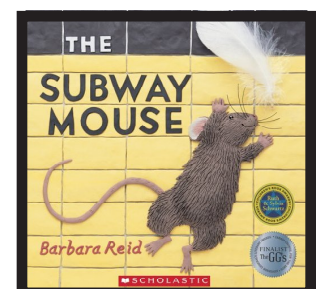
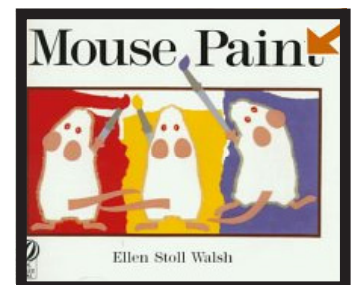
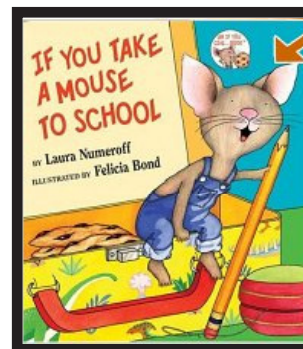
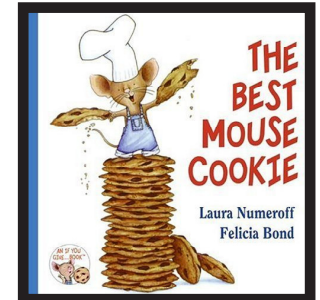
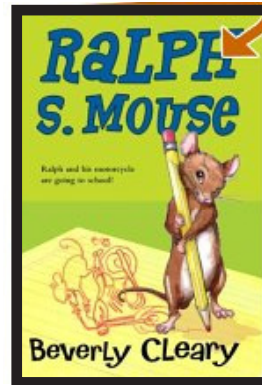
Included is a copy of the very first article when the character was introduced to the public.



MOUSE TALES

Gather a group of picture books about mice who do what humans do such as: *Ralph S. Mouse* by Beverley Cleary (in which he goes to school); *The Best Mouse Cookie* by Laura Numeroff (from the *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series in which he makes his own cookie); *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff; *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh (in which they mix up in primary colours and make lots of colours); *Subway Mouse* by Barbara Reid.

Ask students to create their own mouse name and character (recommend a slightly sarcastic but enthusiastic mouse who wants to try things). Create a set of possible scenarios in which the mouse tries to accomplish things ordinarily thought of as human. (You can also relate this to the movie *Ratatouille* in which the rat wants to become a chef.)





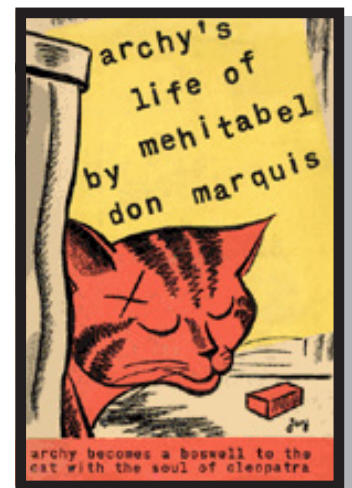
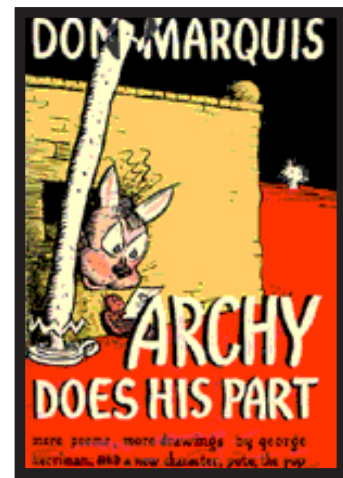
the appearance of archie

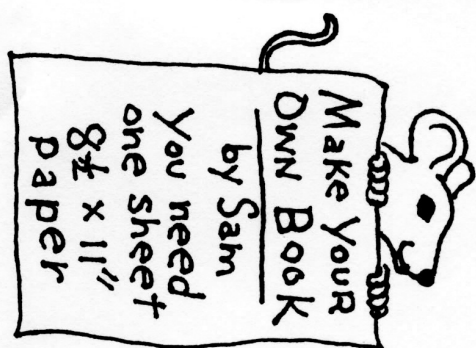
The New York Evening Sun
Column: The Sun Dial
Don Marquis
March 29, 1916

expression is the need of my soul
 i was once a vers libre bard
 but i died and my soul went into the body of a cockroach
 it has given me a new outlook upon life
 i see things from the under side now
 thank you for the apple peelings in the wastepaper basket
 but your paste is getting so stale i cant eat it
 there is a cat here called mehitabel i wish you would have
 removed she nearly ate me the other night why dont she
 catch rats that is what she is supposed to be fore
 there is a rat here she should get without delay...

i wish you would have mehitabel kill that rat
 or get a cat that is onto her job
 and i will write you a series of poems showing how things
 look
 to a cockroach
 that rats name is freddy
 the next time freddy dies i hope he wont be a rat
 but something smaller i hope i will be a rat
 in the next transmigration and freddy a cockroach
 i will teach him to sneer at my poetry then

dont you ever eat any sandwiches in your office
 i haven't had a crumb of bread for i dont know how long
 or a piece of ham or anything but apple parings
 and paste and leave a piece of paper in your machine
 every night you can call me archy



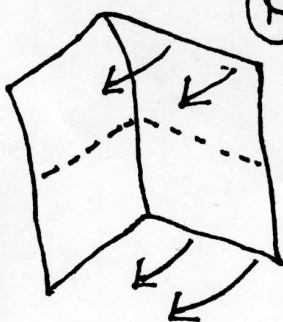


1



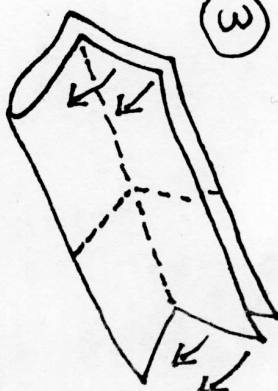
fold paper in half, long ways

2



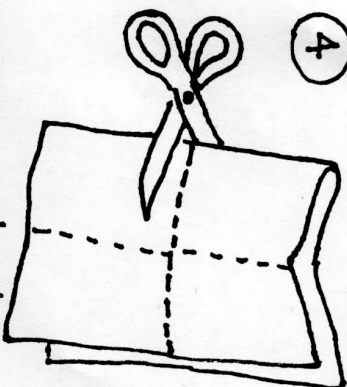
open up paper, fold in half the other way.

3

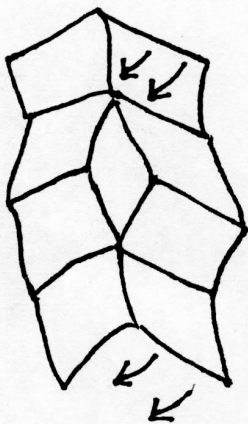


fold it in half again.

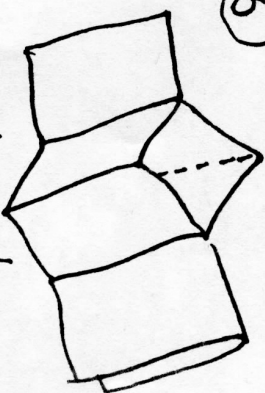
4



5



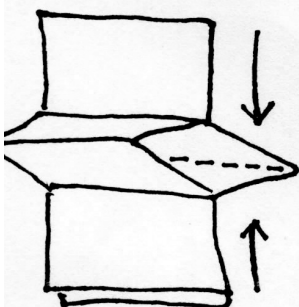
6



you should have a shape like this!

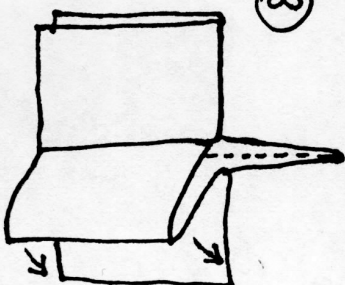
open up to this shape, cut from corner to the first fold.

7



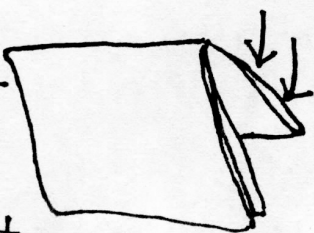
push sides together so it looks like a cross

8



fold front flap all the way over to the right

9



FOLD Left flap back-

you've got a book to write and draw on!