

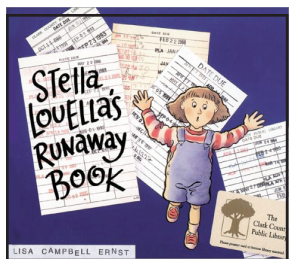


# CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

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©2012, dianacruchley.com)

## STELLA LOUELLA'S RUNAWAY



### BOOK

Stella Louella's book is due at the library today, and she can't find it. As she goes through the neighbourhood,

she gathers a group of people who all have read and enjoyed her book.

Lisa Campbell Ernst, Aladdin Paperbacks,  
©2001, ISBN 0-689-84460-3

## WHAT'S THE BOOK?

As she goes from occupation to occupation, Stella Louella meets people who have read the book and love it for reasons that have to do with their life. As a listening skill, give the students a chart of the readers in the book, and ask them to make note of why they love the book. Long before the end, the students should realize what the book is. A good chance to talk about "reader response."

## PERSONAL WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should provide at least three topics if possible. Here are some ideas:

1. Stories about places where you typically read.
2. Stories about something or some things you lost (or being lost yourself).
3. Being late.
4. A description of your favourite kinds of stories with examples: mystery, sf, thriller, romance.
5. Things you are afraid of (or have been frightened by).

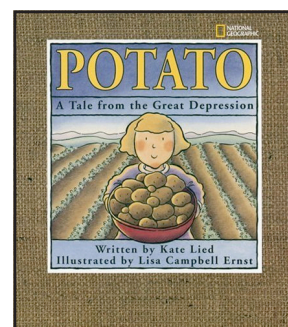
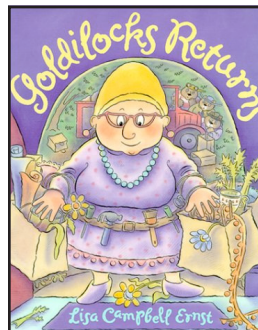
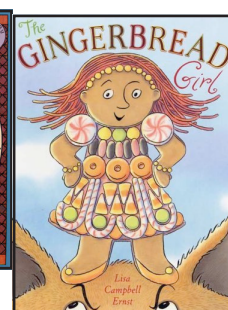
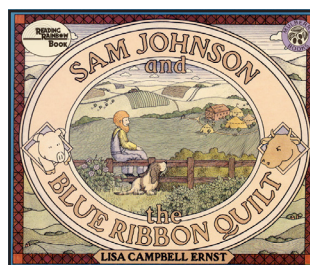
## LISA CAMPBELL ERNST

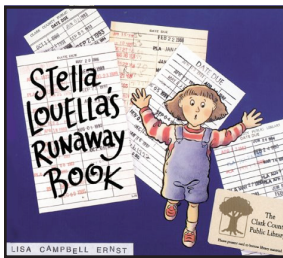
She doesn't have a website, and all we learn about her from other sites is that she is a prolific writer, living in Kansas City, MO, and has a husband and two daughters. Some of her books include:

- *This is the Van That Dad Cleaned*
- *The Three Spinning Fairies*
- *Goldilocks Returns*
- *The Gingerbread Girl*
- *Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt*

and lots and lots more.

| READER        | RESPONSE       |
|---------------|----------------|
| child         | bears          |
| mailman       | walk           |
| girl          | girl           |
| officer       | unlawful entry |
| cook in diner | porridge       |
| fix-it-shop   | broken chair   |
| bed bazaar    | try out beds   |
| mom           | nap            |
| scouts        | bears' home    |
| scout         | find girl      |
| gym teacher   | in the forest  |





## STELLA LOUELLA'S RUNAWAY BOOK, p. 2

### WRITE YOUR OWN CUMULATIVE TALE

A cumulative tale is one where at each step in the plot, another character is involved (usually to solve the problem). In *Stella Louella's Runaway Book* at each step Stella pursues the last person who had the book, and that person joins in the pursuit until there are more than 10 who eventually arrive at the library.

Give the students some possibilities for writing their own clever cumulative tale:

- Choose another fairy tale such as *The Three Little Pigs* and have the pigs searching for something to build the brick house. A sort of “got to get the brick house built in time” plot might be fun, with each person they are visiting contributing something until they have everything they need and all the helpers they need.
- Another possibility might be a school problem where they are looking for the tether ball, for example, and going from one part of the school to the other as they track where it has been
  - before the end of lunch hour..

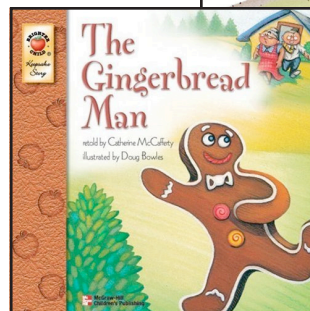
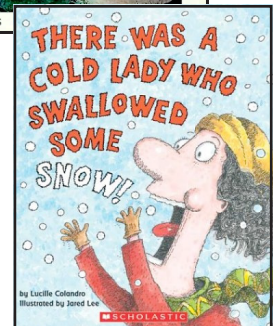
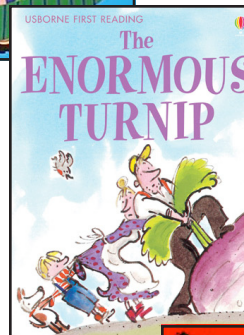
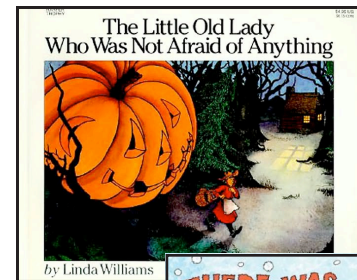
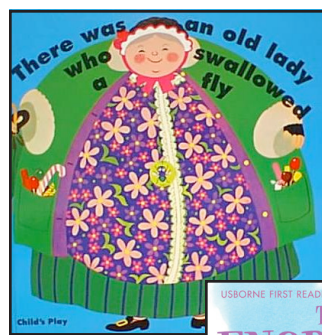
### GENRE QUALITIES

Brainstorm with the students the types of genres they know about: mystery, thriller, romance, fairy tale, folk tale, historic fiction, science fiction, medical, horror, humour, fantasy, (To help them with the concept of genre, perhaps read out some current TV shows and ask them what they are.) Give each group 2-3 different genres, and ask them to define them as best they can: characters, typical plot elements, location, etc.

### OTHER CUMULATIVE TALES

Students may be interested in other famous cumulative tales. They may also be useful as models for students writing their own cumulative tale:

- *This is the House That Jack Built*
- *The Gingerbread Man*
- *The Gingerbread Girl (by Ernst)*
- *The Enormous Turnip*
- *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed the Fly*
- *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*
- *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow*
- *Drummer Hoff*



### VOCABULARY

This book uses interesting “slang” types of language. For example: *willy nilly* goes back to the 17th century and means “whether you want to or not”. Other words are *smack-dab*, *simmer down*, and *tizzy*. It might be fun for students to brainstorm as many possible slang expressions as they can think of, with their meanings, and then to incorporate a minimum of 12 into their story. These should be highlighted in their final copy.