

Introduction



Acknowledgements

Pennsylvania's *One Book, Every Young Child* program is an early childhood learning initiative created by the following collaborators:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Please Touch Museum
State Museum of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Library Association
Pennsylvania Public Television Network
Pennsylvania Center for the Book
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children

Particular recognition is given to the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh for developing the Traveling Trunk and this accompanying manual of resources that can be used by the library and early learning communities. The museums have made an inspired selection of puppets, games, music and suggested activities that support the collaboration's goal of providing opportunities to engage preschool children in interactive learning. Research shows that children learn more when they are actively engaged.

Thanks are also given to Georgene DeFilippo, Coordinator of Children's Services for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and Mary Maxson, Coordinator of Children's Services for the B. F. Jones Memorial Library in Aliquippa, for their creative ideas and tireless commitment to the initiative.

The Verizon Foundation is recognized and thanked for providing funding to enable every center and home-based childcare program, Head Start, Family Literacy, and private preschool in the Commonwealth to receive a copy of the book *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse* by Lindsay Barrett George and to learn about related *Inside Mouse* activities that support Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards.

—Susan Pannebaker, Youth Services Advisor, PA Department of Education



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Introduction by Lindsay Barrett George



Photo: Micky Kaufman

I love to look, and I love to draw.

As an only child, I relied on my imagination A LOT for entertainment and company.

My family always had pets, so dogs and cats and birds and turtles and one very spoiled goat- all played an important part in my made-up games and artwork.

When I lived on a Caribbean island, I made up stories about the sea and what lived in it. While living in New York City, stories about city dogs kept me busy and happy. But when I moved to Pennsylvania in 1984, the woods were outside our log cabin window, and our neighbors were deer and rabbits and bear and heron – a whole new world to observe and learn about and draw. Stories for children’s books rushed out of the woods and into my head and onto my drawing table.

My art has always been about the familiar things in my life – inside and outside my house. Art, and stories, exist in the world around us - EVERYWHERE. I believe that finding them is the pleasure.

Parents can share special times with their children by simply looking around the house, looking outside the front door, and talking about WHAT THEY SEE.

Inside Mouse/Outside Mouse is based on a fun and simple concept:

If there is a mouse inside my house (we live in a 1898 schoolhouse, so yes, we have mice!) what about a mouse *outside* my house? This book appreciates the similarities among us and celebrates the differences between us.

And at the end of the book, we don’t say ‘good- bye,’ but ‘hello’.

Do you know (and your children) how dogs say hello? or cats? or gorillas? or elephants? That would be fun to find out.

And if you lived outside, how would your life be? Would you sleep in a bed? in a stump? in a nest? down a burrow?

Making the everyday become magic – that is how I love to spend my time.

So STOP – LOOK – AND LISTEN with your child...and let the fun (and learning) begin!

Any time that you share with your child will lead to a CONNECTION!

Lindsay Barrett George

Lindsay Barrett was born July 22, 1952, in the Dominican Republic, where she started painting as soon as she received a set of paints as a gift. Her family moved to New Jersey when she was eight. She spoke only Spanish, but she made friends through her art. Her favorite subject was, and is, the things she saw every day: finding wonder in the ordinary. She went to school for drawing and printmaking, earning a B.F.A from Manhattanville College and an M.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin. She spent several years in New York City working as a printer and later a designer for a children's book publisher. But in 1984 she married William T. George, and they moved to a log cabin in the woods in northeastern Pennsylvania. She had always enjoyed the outdoors, but her new home held so much fascinating wildlife that she was inspired to create her own books to share the outdoors with children who weren't there to see it for themselves.

She and her husband worked together on the *Long Pond* series of picture books, which introduces children to the wildlife of the area. She wrote and illustrated another series, *Who's Been Here?*, which shows various nature clues that two children (based on her own two children) discover on a hike through the woods (or the snow or around the pond...), and then shows the animals that left them. All her books show life-like animals up close.

She lives in White Mills, PA, in Wayne County.

Sources: *Contemporary Authors Online*. Access PA POWER Library. The Gale Group, 2001.

http://www.harperchildrens.com/teacher/catalog/author_xml.asp?authorID=15403

— a teacher reference. The Author's Note is informative and interesting.

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/lbgeorge.html>

—a simple, kid-centered website

Books written and illustrated by Lindsay Barrett George:

- *William and Boomer*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1987.
- (William T. George, coauthor) *Beaver at Long Pond*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1988.
- *In the Snow: Who's Been Here?* New York: Greenwillow Books, 1995.
- *In the Woods: Who's Been Here?* New York: Greenwillow Books, 1995.
- *Around the Pond: Who's Been Here?* New York: Greenwillow Books, 1996.
- *Around the World: Who's Been Here?* New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998.
- *My Bunny and Me*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2000.
- *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2004.
- *The Secret*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2005.
- *In the Garden: Who's Been Here?* New York: Greenwillow Books, to be published May 2006.

Books illustrated by Lindsay Barrett George:

- George, William T. *Box Turtle at Long Pond*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1989.
- George, William T. *Fishing at Long Pond*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1991.
- George, William T. *Christmas at Long Pond*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1992.
- Charlotte Huck, compiler. *Secret Places*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1993.
- Schaefer, Lola M. *Pick, Pull, Snap! : Where Once a Flower Bloomed*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2003.