



The Author

Master knitter and Maine writer **Robin Orm Hansen** began to write in fourth grade and, since then, writing has supported her through school and university years, as a mother, journal, folklorist, newsletter editor, and fiction writer.

Surrounded by knitting aunts and cousins as a child, Robin has no memory of learning to knit. Knitting was what people did - even her great-grandfather was a knitter!

Robin is both a writer and reader of middle-grade and young adult novels. Her favorite books are *The Underneath* by Kathi Appelt; *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie; *City of Dark Magic*, by Magnus Flyte; and anything by Pierre Boulle.

Biographical information from www.robinormhansen.com

The Illustrator

Jamie Hogan grew up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and earned a BFA in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design. Since 2003, Jamie has taught Illustration at Maine College of Art in Portland.

Jamie is the author and illustrator of *The Seven Days of Daisy*, the illustrator of many award-winning children's books, and the creator of interior art and jacket illustrations for many adult titles.

Jamie draws inspiration from moonlight, reflections, pink clouds, wishing on the first star, and the raw beauty that is Maine. She lives with her family on Peaks Island.

Biographical information from www.jamiehogan.com



These are real ice harbor mittens, knit by Robin!

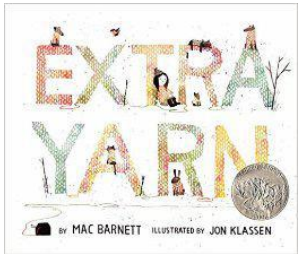


Let's Talk!

- Do you know how to knit? Do you know anyone that knits? What items of clothing or other things are made by knitting?
- In the book, Aunt Agnes supports her community by knitting mittens. Who else in the story supports their community? How about Ed Prower? Josie's mom?
- The mittens magically show North, but the boys have to figure out what's being shown and how to use it. How do they determine where they are in the fog, which direction is North, and how close they are to land? How do they figure out they're almost home?
- Is the osprey a shape-shifting Aunt Agnes? Why do you think so, or why not?
- The story of the magical compass mittens is a folktale. Every culture contains a treasure trove of old tales. What tales do you know? What stories are told as a tradition in your family? Have you ever heard the story about selkies? Or talking sand fleas? Or dolphins and fishes that can grant wishes?

Let's Create!

- Write your own folklore story.
http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/folklore_your.htm
- Follow Robin's instructions and make your own knitting needles: <http://islandreadersandwriters.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DIY-knitting-needles-classroom-min.pdf>
- Make your own compass. No magnet? Just rub the needle on your hair!
<http://adventure.howstuffworks.com/outdoor-activities/hiking/compass2.htm>
- Finger knit!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsZsUBYU0qU&t=197s>



Extra Yarn, by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen. Grades PreK - 3.



Leave me Alone! by Vera Brosgol. Grades PreK - 2.



A Hat for Mrs. Goldman, by Michelle Edwards and illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Grades PreK - 2.



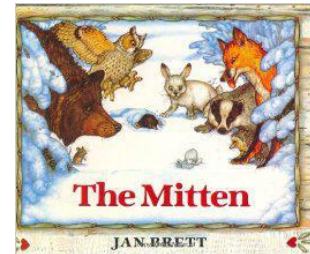
Ned the Knitting Pirate, by Diana Murray and illustrated by Leslie Lamle. Grades PreK - 3.



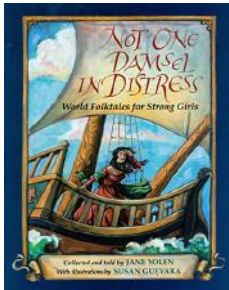
Sunny's Mittens: Learn to Knit Lovikka Mittens, by Robin Orm Hansen and illustrated by Lois Leonard Stock. Gr. 3 and up.



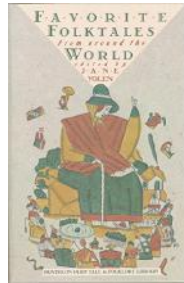
Knit Your Bit: A World War I Story, by Deborah Hopkinson and illustrated by Steven Guarnaccia. Grades K - 3.



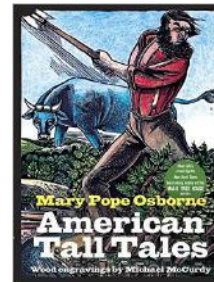
The Mitten, by Jan Brett. Grades PreK - K.



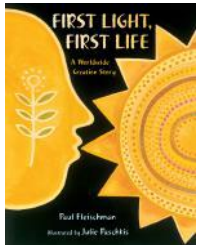
Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls, by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Susan Guevara. Grades 4 - 7.



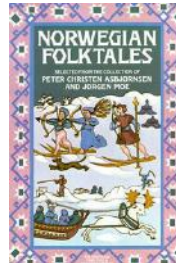
Favorite Folk Tales from Around the World, chosen by Jane Yolen. Grades 7 & up.



American Tall Tales, by Mary Pope Osborne and illustrated by Michael McCurdy. Grades 3 - 6.

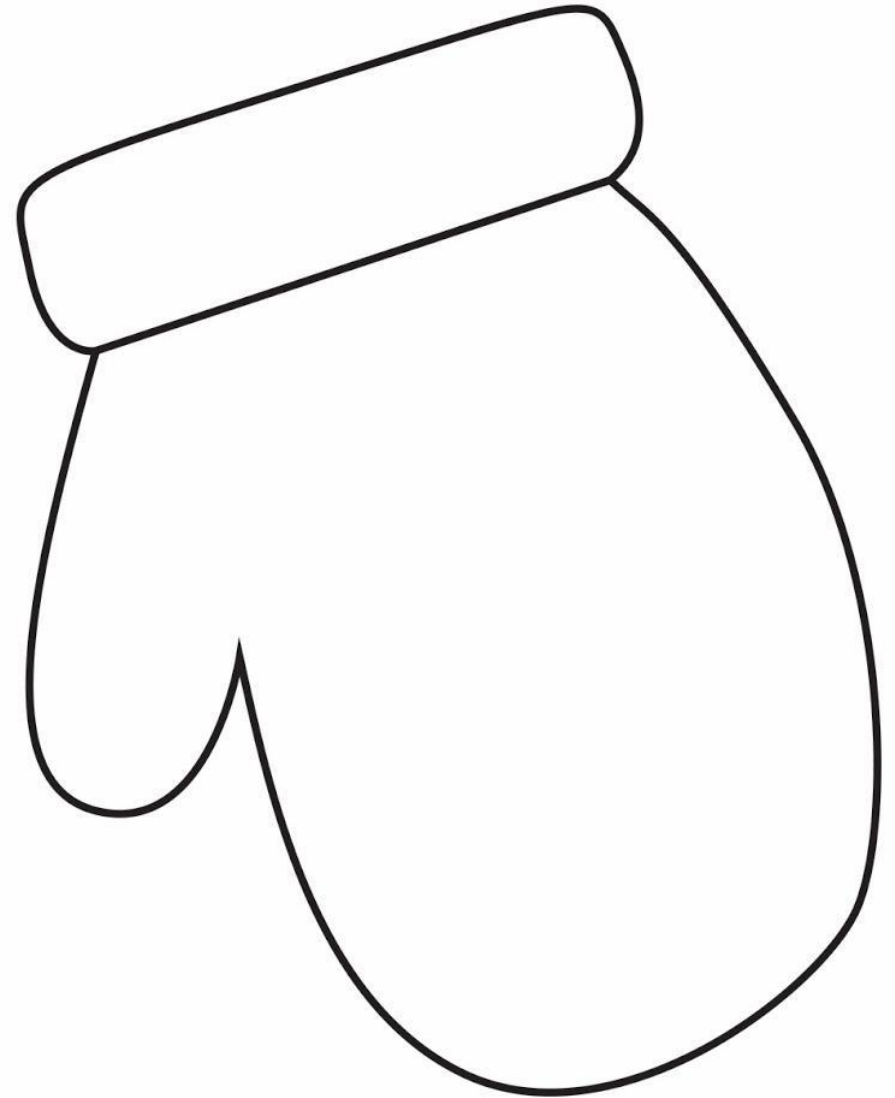
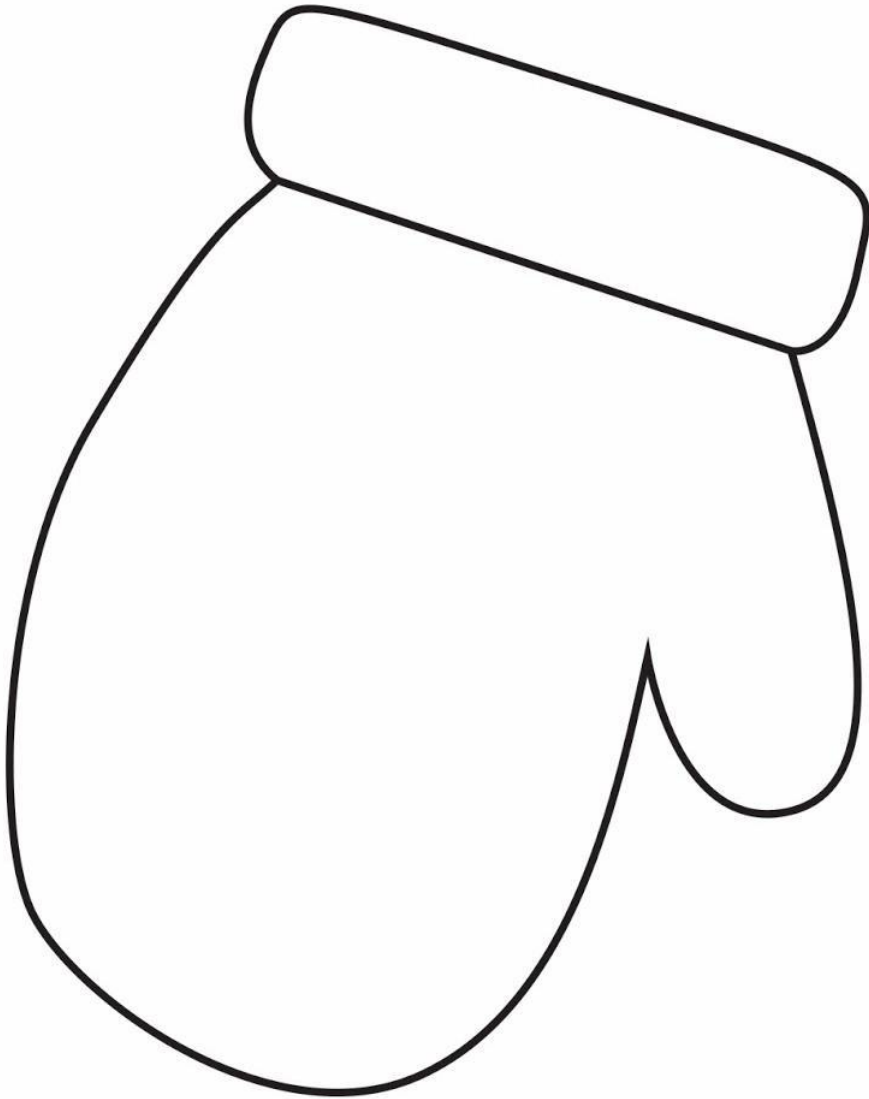


First Light, First Life, by Paul Fleischman and illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Grades 1 - 4.



Check out any of the books in the **Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library** - they have Folktales for Russia, Sweden, Ireland, Japan, the British Isles, the American West, India, Yiddish folktales, Arab folktales, and more!

The compass in Josie's mittens was a very special symbol. Choose your own special symbol and draw it in a repeating pattern on the mitten template to create your own mitten design!





KINDERGARTEN: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.7

With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thing, or idea in the text an illustration depicts).

FIRST GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.7

Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.

SECOND GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

THIRD GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

FOURTH GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

FIFTH GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.5

Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fit together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

SIXTH GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3

Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

SEVENTH GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.5

Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

EIGHTH GRADE: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3

Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.