



MEET REBEKAH



Artist, educator, author, Rebekah is a well-known painter and sculptor of animal art. She is the author and illustrator of “The Very Best Bed,” which won a Maine Literary Award from the Maine Publishers Alliance and “Bear-ly There,” winner of the 2010 Moonbeam Children’s Book Award. Most recently, Rebekah has illustrated “Swimming Home,” (written by Susan Hand Shetlerly) and “The Secret Bay,” (written by Kimberly Ridley), both featured books in IRW’s community-wide program,

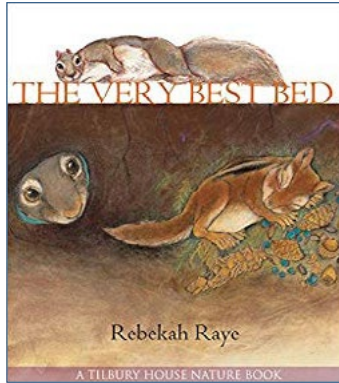
Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact.

A native of Tennessee, Rebekah lives in East Blue Hill, Maine, and interacts daily with animals domestic and wild, which provide inspiration for her art. She also teaches workshops for adults and children.

Rebekah believes that ideas can become a reality, and students of every ability can express themselves through art. Everyone has their own special way of drawing, painting, and writing. With gentle and encouraging guidance, she draws out each student’s special talent. For more, visit <http://www.rebekahraye.com>.

Very Best Bed & Thanks to the Animals

LET'S TALK

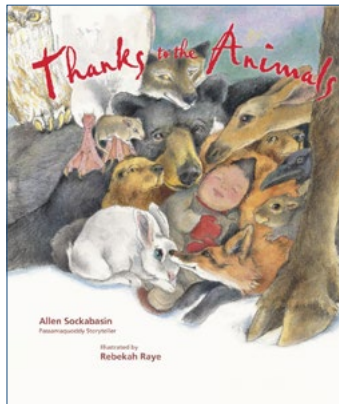


The Very Best Bed

Do animals really have beds? What else might it be called?

Animals abide by the seasons and often store foods for winter. Does your family do this? What methods are used to preserve foods?

When squirrel finally makes “the very best bed”, he uses his tail to keep him warm. Are there any other animals in the book who might also use their tails to keep warm?



Thanks to the Animals

Oral traditions are when families share traditions passed on from generation to generation. What are your favorite family stories or traditions?

Animals have helped sustain human life in a variety of ways for many years. How do animals help sustain your life today?

Are there local animals that you are thankful for?

“Let’s Talk!” discussions fulfill Common Core Standards in the Speaking & Listening strand: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL

Very Best Bed & Thanks to the Animals

LET'S CREATE

The Very Best Bed

Make a diorama of an animal habitat in a small cardboard box. Be sure to include their “bed.”

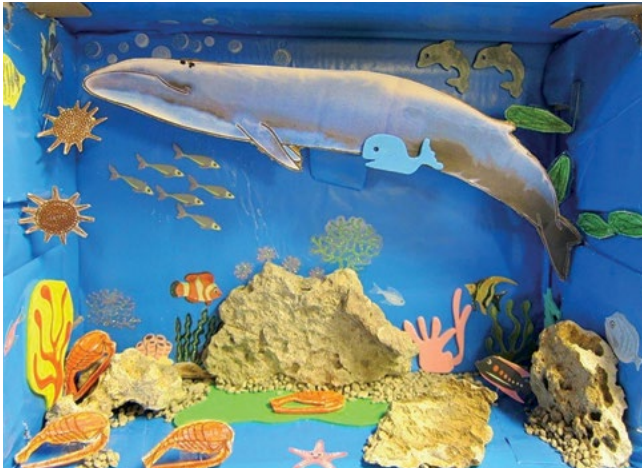
What to do:

1. First, add background scenery to the bottom of the box. Then, stand the diorama up on its side before adding the figures and objects. You may use cut-out pictures of animal figures and objects, or build them from clay and other materials. Be creative, using any materials available to craft your animals (Ex: pine needles for antennae, pipe cleaners for legs, tiny rocks for eyes, etc.) If possible, add natural or crafted objects to your habitat to make it look realistic. Glue the objects to the box so they won't fall when the diorama is carried. Don't forget to include facts that you learn about your animal to share with others!

Simply Draw

What to do:

1. Learn as much as you can about where an animal sleeps and then draw your “very best” version of their bed!



Very Best Bed & Thanks to the Animals

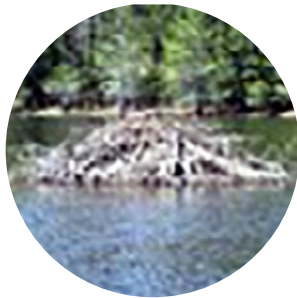
LET'S CREATE

Thanks to the Animals

Animals Mix & Match



Den



Lodge



Dirt Pile



Nest



Hole in Tree



Patted down Grass

Mole



Chickadee



Beaver



Fawn



Black Bear

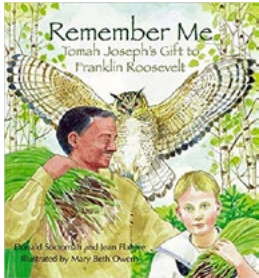


Raccoons



Very Best Bed & Thanks to the Animals

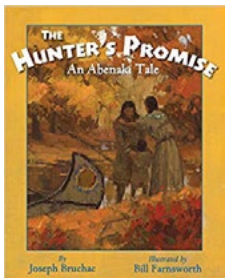
TEXT TO TEXT CONNECTIONS



Remember Me: Tomah Joseph's Gift to Franklin Roosevelt, by Donald Soctomah and Jean Flahive

The Hunter's Promise, by Joseph Bruchac

The Mitten, by Jan Brett

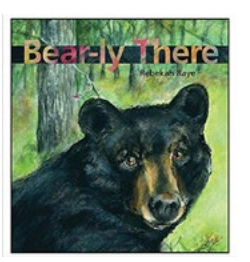
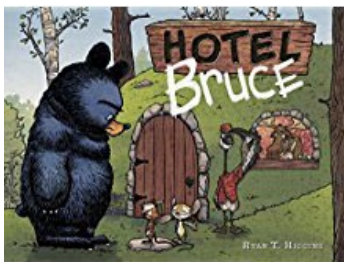
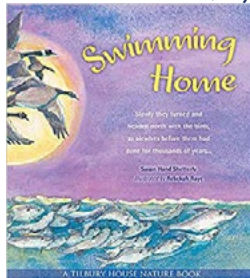
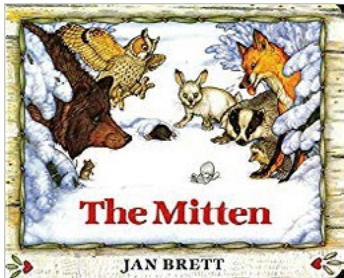


Bear-ly There, by Rebekah Raye

Swimming Home,
Susan Hand Shetterly

Over and Under the Snow, by Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal

Hotel Bruce, by Ryan T. Higgins



ONLINE CONNECTIONS

Funny ways that animals sleep video from National Geographic:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=8JSZKFMPJKO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JSZkfMPjKO)

Why do animals sleep video from The Atlantic:

[HTTPS://WWW.THEATLANTIC.COM/VIDEO/INDEX/549035/HOW-ANIMALS-SLEEP/](https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/549035/how-animals-sleep/)

To hear Allen Sockabasin tell the story of, "Thanks to the Animals," in Passamaquoddy click the link below:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=jNRo4BWRic4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNRo4BWRic4)

To listen to a conversation between Allen Sockabasin, his editor, and the Maine Humanities Council on how the book came about click the link below (for teachers):

[HTTPS://MAINEHUMANITIES.ORG/BLOG/PODCASTS/A-CONVERSATION-ABOUT-THANKS-TO-THE-ANIMALS/](https://mainehumanities.org/blog/podcasts/a-conversation-about-thanks-to-the-animals/)

Passamaquoddy Migration Map:

[HTTP://WWW.OJIBWE.ORG/HOME/ABOUT_MIGRATION_HOTMAP.HTML](http://www.ojibwe.org/home/about_migration_hotmap.html)

