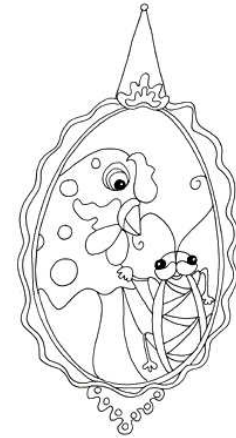


Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach
An Educator's Guide

A Picture Book by Dianne de Las Casas
Illustrated by Marita Gentry
Pelican Publishing Company 2009



About the book

“Hooray! Here is an authentic Louisiana folktale wonderfully adapted for telling aloud by one of Louisiana's favorite storytellers. Kids will enjoy singing along as the rascally roaches party while the hard-working hen is away. And, anyone who has found roaches scurrying around in their house at night will rejoice when the pesky critters get their comeuppance.” - Gale K. Criswell, Former Children's Services Consultant State Library of Louisiana

Watch the book trailer on Dianne's website!

<http://storyconnection.net/blog/2009/07/17/madame-poulet-and-monsieur-roach-book-trailer-friday-july-17-2009/>

About the Author



Dianne de Las Casas is a celebrated author, award-winning storyteller, and recording artist. Her CDs *Jump, Jiggle & Jam* and *World Fiesta* have been named *School Library Journal* Audio of the Week recordings. She performs arts-in-education programs and residencies at schools, libraries, festivals, and special events. Dianne is a frequent presenter at the International Reading Association, American Library Association, and other literary and education conferences. The author of *Madame Poulet and Monsieur Roach*, *The Cajun Cornbread Boy* and many other books, Dianne lives with her family in the New Orleans area. She often wishes she had a chicken to take care of the rascally roaches that sneak into her house.

About the Illustrator



Marita Gentry is a professional artist and has her own painting and teaching studio, Studio Marita, in southern Louisiana. Her vivid illustrations have earned her numerous awards and commissions. An accomplished teacher, she is involved in several artist-in-residence programs each year, helping schools enliven their walls with magnificent murals. This is her second collaboration with Dianne de Las Casas. Marita loves a good party but not when roaches are dancing on the dishes!





Interview with the Author, Dianne de Las Casas

How did you come up with the idea for *Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach*?

Many years ago, I heard the story from author and storyteller Janice Harrington. I fell in love with the story and its humor, and was overjoyed to find out that it was a New Orleans folktale. So I started telling the story and gave it my own Southern flair. Over the years, I have crafted the story into a hilarious fun-to-tell tale. Since roaches often invade my house, I love the ending of the story!

What advice do you have for young authors?

Step 1: Read! Explore the world around you through the power of words. Read as much as you can – both fiction and non-fiction. The more you know about the world, the more you have to write about. **Step 2: Listen!** Listen to the world around you? What do you hear? You could be inspired with a story. Two of my books (*Madame Poulet & Monsieur* and *Mama's Bayou* were inspired by sounds). **Step 3: Write!** Keep a journal and jot down all you thoughts and ideas. **Step 4: Tell out loud!** I read every story I write out loud. It's important to hear the rhythm of the language. Every story has a "heartbeat" that brings it to life. Reading a story out loud allows you to hear that. **Step 5: Rewrite!** Few stories are born "perfect." The best stories are the ones that have been finely tuned with good editing. Ask someone you trust to read your story and offer suggestions. A good editor is so important!



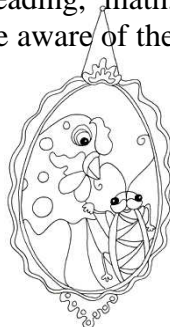
Interview with the Illustrator, Marita Gentry

What inspires you as an artist?

I am inspired by everyday life and the things I see around me such as animals, my cats, my garden, and my family. Animals as well as people provide great facial expressions through their thoughts and actions. I love painting chickens. I grew up with chickens in our backyard on a farm. They are funny animals so I wanted to capture their silliness with vivid colors and funky patterns. When I worked on the paintings for *Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach*, I looked at shotgun houses in New Orleans and even modeled my mom's house on the back of the book! Art is everywhere. Just take a look around.

What advice do you have for young artists?

Draw, draw, draw! Draw things you find around you. Draw what you see. Your art does not have to be realistic. Be okay with your own style. Don't be afraid to stray outside of the lines. You have to learn to break boundaries to really draw. It is also important to use your time in school to learn what you can. Art is about reading, math, and social studies. Reading makes your imagination more vivid. You have to be aware of the world around you to draw it.



Language Arts

Word Whizzling (Dianne's made-up word for finding words in another word or phrase)

How many words can you whizzle from Madame Poulet? The words have to be 3 or more letters. We found 50 words but there are more!

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Retelling Tales Writing Exercise

Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach is a folktale retelling.

- How would you “retell” a folktale? Find a lesser known folktale and rewrite it. Tip: Look in the 398.2 section of the library for folk and fairy tales.
- Take a traditional tale (i.e., Little Red Riding Hood, 3 Little Pigs, Goldilocks & the 3 Bears) and twist the tale. Think of how to “redo” the title (i.e., Goldie Bears & the 3 Locks)

Awesome Onomatopoeia

In *Madame Poulet & Monsieur*, there are many examples of *onomatopoeia* [on-oh-mah-toh-PAY-yah], words that sound like the sounds they describe. Here are some of the onomatopoeia words in the book: cluck, cough, scurry, slurp, and snuffle.

Activity: Write paragraph about a character in *Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach*. What sounds would you associate with a chicken or a roach? Use onomatopoeia. You can even make up your own! Read the paragraphs out loud in class.

Rhythm & Writing

In *Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach*, there is a rhythmic song that appears throughout the book:

“Madame Poulet, Madame Poulet,
 She is gone and that is that.
 We will party, we will party,
 Until that chicken, she comes back.”



It is set to the Mexican folk song, “La Cucaracha.” Can you write your own lyrics and set them to a familiar tune? Common songs like “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “Jingle Bells” are fun to change around with your own words.

Turbo Tongue Twisters

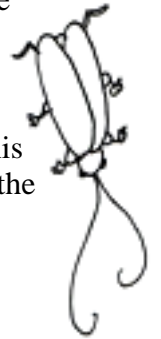
A *tongue twister* is a phrase that is designed to be difficult to say properly. Some tongue twisters are natural (cinnamon or spaghetti are often tongue twisters for young children) while others are deliberate and used for fun. Example: "Creepy Crawly Cockroaches" (Try saying it three times fast without any mistakes!) Can you make up your own turbo tongue twister?

Math

Creepy Crawly Counting

In *Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach*, there are roaches crawling all over the book! Count how many roaches appear on each page. Then add them together. How many cockroaches are in the book altogether? Tip: Antennae count too so look carefully! The answer is on the last page of this guide. You might be surprised at how many cockroaches creep and crawl throughout the book.

Activity: Insect Estimation. Fill a clear container with creepy crawly cockroaches and other insects. Have the student estimate how many insects are in the container. You can also do this with the book. Have the students guess the amount of roaches creeping and crawling inside the book (not including cover and end pages). Give the winner a package of gummy insects.

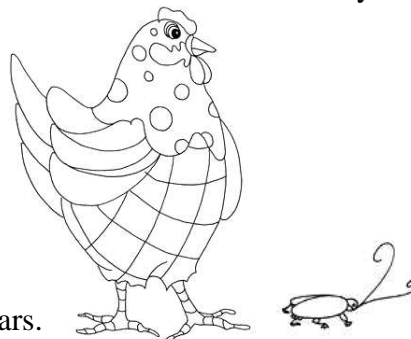


Science

Crazy Cockroach Facts

- The American Cockroach is the largest of house-infesting roaches. Ewwwww! Get out the bug spray!
- Cockroaches have been around since the time of dinosaurs!
- A cockroach can live for up to a month without food.
- A Cockroach can live up to a week without its head. Aaaaaah! It's the headless cockroach!
- Get ready to race! Cockroaches can run up to 3 miles per hour.

Activity: Create an insectarium or diorama. You don't have to use real cockroaches. Ugh. Use fake roaches or print out pictures of cockroaches. Use a jar or shoebox to display those creepy critters and include a fact sheet about roaches. What other facts can you unearth about these intrepid insects?



Fun & Funky Chicken Facts

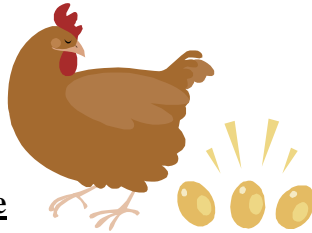
- The lifespan of a chicken is 10-15 years.
- A chicken has a comb on the head and two wattles under the neck.
- The male is called a rooster. The female is called a hen. The youngsters are called chicks.
- The hen is usually ready to lay her first eggs when she is around six months old.
- Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, snails, slugs, fruits, vegetables and roaches!
- There are 175 varieties of chickens around the world.

Activity: Draw a chicken like Madame Poulet. Give your chicken her own personality with a fun and funky pattern. Does she have stripes, polka dots, or checkers? What is her name? Around your drawing, list some fun and funky facts about your chicken.

Ready, Set, Hatch!

A hen lays an average of 300 eggs per year. The hen will sit on her eggs to keep them warm so that they will hatch into chicks. A fertilized egg develops into a chicken when its temperature reaches 86° Fahrenheit. An egg takes 21 days to hatch. A chick becomes an adult at 3 months.

Activity: Draw the life cycle of a chicken from the egg to the chick to the adult chicken. How long does each stage take?



Social Studies – Crescent City Culture

Crescent City Architecture

Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach is a folktale from New Orleans. Marita Gentry, the illustrator, set the story in the New Orleans French Quarter. Madame Poulet and Monsieur Roach live in a **shotgun** house, a narrow rectangular house usually no more than 12 feet wide with doors at both ends. It was developed in New Orleans and was the most popular style of house in the Southern United States, from the end of the Civil War (1861–65) through the 1920s. The open nature of the house allowed a breeze to circulate through the whole house, keeping it cool in the warm weather.

Fabulous French

Monsieur Roach yells, “Laissez les bon temps rouler!” which means, “Let the good times roll!” in French. *Poulet* is the French word for chicken. “Madame” is French for “Mrs.” and “Monsieur” is French for “Mr.” Because New Orleans was settled by the French, their influence can be found all over the city, from the language to architecture of the French Quarter to the food (Think *etouffé* & *beignets*). What other French words can you find in the English language?



Mighty Mississippi

The Mississippi River is the second longest river in the United States. It starts in Minnesota and winds its way down to Louisiana, emptying into the Gulf of Mexico. New Orleans is the last major metropolitan city on the Mississippi. The name Mississippi is derived from the Ojibwe word *misi-ziibi* (“Great River”).

Activity: Cartography – New Orleans is called the “Crescent City” because it sits on the bend of the Mississippi river, in a “crescent” shape. Draw the Mississippi River as it relates to New

Orleans. Where is the French Quarter located? Where is the Garden District? Be your own cartographer and explorer in the Crescent City.

Drama/Theater

Act out the story of *Madame Poulet & Monsieur* using Dianne de Las Casas' story theater script on her website. Create a puppet play using Dianne de Las Casas' puppet theater script on her website. <http://www.storyconnection.net> Click on "Book Activities."

Art

Draw your own version of Monsieur Roach. How would he look? Make him a cool and crazy cockroach with different colors. You can even create Monsieur Roach and friends finger puppets by gluing them onto a glove. Printable puppets and coloring sheets are available on Dianne's website <http://www.storyconnection.net> in the "Book Activities" section.

Crafts & Games

Madame Poulet Plate Puppet

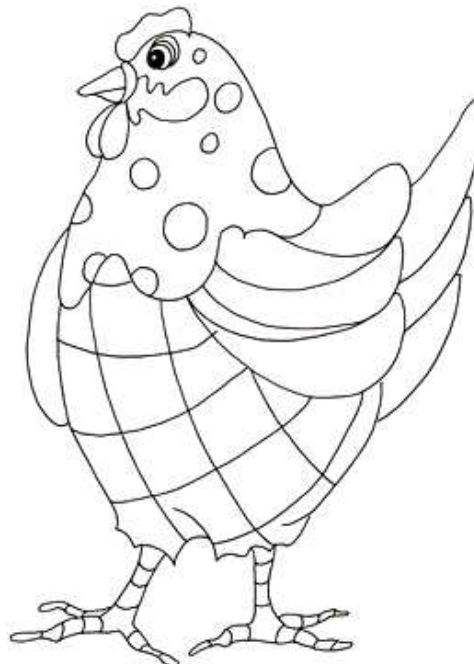
Materials:

Paper plate
Crayons/markers
Construction paper
Popsicle stick
Glue or tape



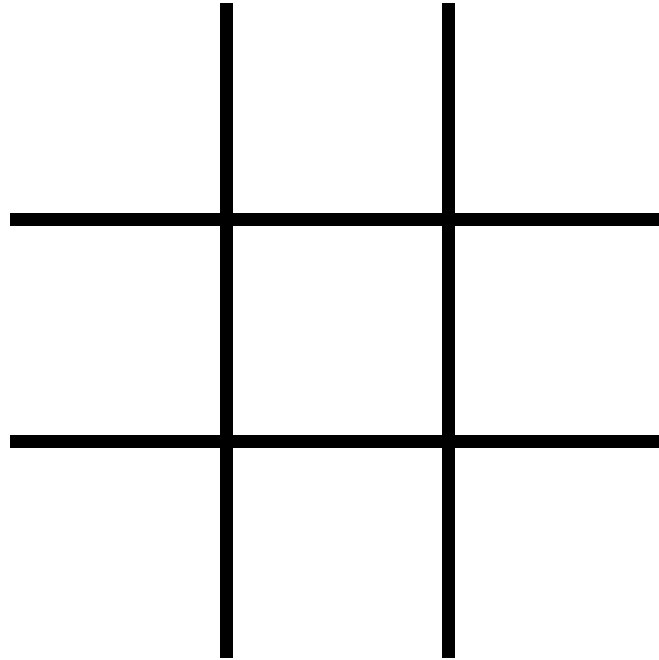
Instructions:

Using a paper plate, create Madame Poulet's body. Color her with crayons and markers. You can cut a small paper plate in half for her wings and glue them onto the big paper plate. Glue a popsicle stick at the bottom.



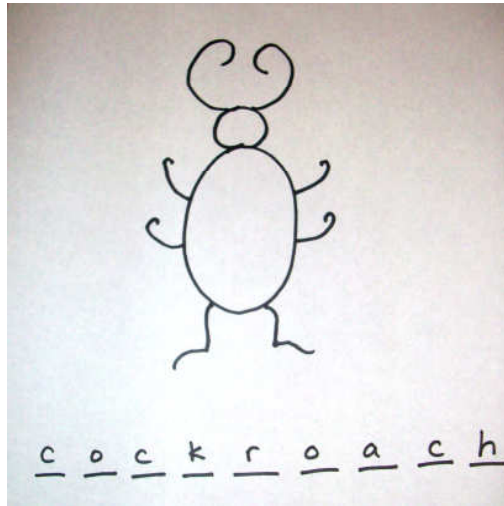
Madame Poulet & Monsieur Roach Tic Tac Toe

Print Madame Poulet and Monsieur Roach. Cut them out. Draw the grid to play Tic Tac Toe.



Catch the Cockroach! (Variant of Hangman)

Just like hangman, the object of the game is to guess the letters of the word. A simple roach will be drawn. Each time a letter is guessed incorrectly, a part of the roach is drawn (1 oval for body, 1 circle for the head, 2 curly lines for the 2 antennae, curly lines for the 4 arms and 2 legs). The player(s) gets 10 guesses (1 body, 1 head, 2 antennae, 4 arms, and 2 legs). Blanks should be drawn with enough space to draw the roach when the word is determined. Players take turns guessing the letters. Each time a letter is incorrect, the "Chicken" draws a part of the roach. If the players guess all the letters correctly, they win the game. If the roach is drawn in his entirety and gets "caught," the players lose the game.



Creepy Crawly Counting Answer

There are 158 cockroaches crawling inside the book, not including the cover and the end pages. Ewww!

