

The Kissing Hand

BIRTHDAY KIT

Dear Booksellers,

Every child will tell you that a birthday is a reason for happy celebration. Please join us in marking the birthday of a book that's given parents and teachers—and children, of course—joy and comfort for twenty years! Audrey Penn's *THE KISSING HAND*.

Our party kit includes ideas, instructions and materials for activities to make your store's celebration special and memorable.

In our kit, you'll find:

- ♥ Things to do before your event, include ideas for decorating your shop
- ♥ Invitations and flyers to announce your event
- ♥ Name tags
- ♥ Character puppets to print and cut out
- ♥ Materials for a pin-the-tail-on-the-raccoon game
- ♥ Templates for an art activity
- ♥ Songs
- ♥ Suggestions for a scavenger hunt and party refreshments
- ♥ A take-home game page

We also want to tell you that we now have a fantastic Chester the Raccoon costume who would love to visit your store. Just send an email to Erin Blacketer, eblacketer@tanglewoodbooks.com, and let us know a little bit about your store, where you are located, and when you'd like Chester to visit (it's best to give us three different dates). We will get back to you as soon as we can put a schedule together.

Warmest wishes from all of us at Tanglewood, from Chester Raccoon and his Mama, and from Audrey Penn.



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BEFORE THE PARTY:

- ♥ Decorate your space. Cut out a moon and stars and suspend them from the ceiling or hang them high on the walls throughout the room. Fiddle with the lighting to see how night-like you can make it seem. You'll find a slew of raccoon sounds at: http://www.soundboard.com/sb/Raccoon_Sounds_audio
- ♥ Scatter items for the scavenger hunt throughout the store. You can use things like a leaf, a rock, a twig, a flower, a handful of nuts, a bird's nest.
- ♥ Print out the name tags on Avery® 6874, 3" x 3-3/4" labels.
- ♥ Make up enough of the Chester and Mama puppets for your guests. You'll find the puppets at http://tanglewoodbooks.com/images/activities/kissing_activity.pdf
- ♥ Print out and cut out the Chester pin-the-tail-on-the-raccoon shape. (Find it at: http://tanglewoodbooks.com/images/activities/kissing_activity.pdf) Glue it to a piece of heavy cardboard. Print out and cut out a dozen tails. Be sure you have tape around for the game. Also have a scarf on hand to serve as a blindfold.
- ♥ Make several stencils of an open hand: You will find the template at: <http://www.makinglearningfun.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.makinglearningfun.com/Activities/KissingHand/KissingHand-PaperPlateStencil.gif> Have enough paper plates and crayons available for all the children.
- ♥ Make copies of the find-the-animals take-home page at http://tanglewoodbooks.com/images/activities/kissing_activity.pdf Be sure to stamp the store name and address at the bottom of the page.

You've got everything you need here for a fantastic celebration.

HAVE A GREAT TIME.



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THE PARTY:

When everyone has arrived, set a foresty-nighttime mood. Point out the moon and stars in the store and explain that raccoons are nocturnal animals, and we wanted Chester to feel comfortable so we're bringing the nighttime in. Then, lights out and shades down (if you can). If it's really dark, have a couple of flashlights around for just enough light. Have everyone listen carefully as you play the raccoon sounds.

Settle the children into a circle and read THE KISSING HAND.

Now hand out the puppets ~ half the children get Chester and the other half, Mama. Then read the story again, with the children using their puppets to play out their character's actions. If the children know the story well enough, they can say it along with you as you read it through a second time.

Reveal the tail-less Chester picture on your wall. Where's his tail? Show the children the tails you have and then play pin-the-tail on Chester.

Tell the children that raccoons are scavengers who look everywhere and anywhere to find food. Then have a scavenger hunt. Who can find a leaf, a rock, a twig, a flower, a handful of nuts, a bird's nest? Remind the children that all of these are within plain sight ~ all they have to do is look carefully.

Each child can now make his/her own kissing hand. Give the hand template for the children to trace ~ several children should take turn with each stencil. Once the outline is complete, allow the children time to decorate the hands and surrounding paper plate. Be sure each child signs his/her name on their hand.



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TIME FOR SONGS

We found this on the internet. Easy to sing and easy to add hand motions.

I'M A LITTLE RACCOON

(to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

written by Leanne Guenther

I'm a little raccoon, prowling around,
(use your hands like little paws and make a cautious prowling motion.)

I hunt for food without a sound.
(look left and then right (exaggerating the movement of your head) and then make a shhhhhh motion ~ with your finger to your lips)

A mask on my face and a bushy tail,
(point to your eyes and then swish one arm behind you like a tail)

Let's see if you can spot my trail!
(point at someone and then put hand on forehead (like a salute) and gaze at the floor like you're looking for pawprints)

And here's a fun song about love. If you don't know the tune, you can find it on YouTube.

SKINNAMARINKYDINKYDINK

SkinnaMarinkyDinkyDink

SkinnaMarinkyDoo

I Love You

(repeat)

I love you in the morning

I love you late at night

I love you in the evening when the moon is shining bright

SkinnaMarinkyDinkyDink

SkinnaMarinkyDoo

I Love You



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TIME FOR THE BIRTHDAY CAKE

Bring out a cake or a cupcake with a candle and all join in for the Happy Birthday to Chester song. Then everyone should make a wish and blow out the candle.

Turn on the lights.

TIME FOR REFRESHMENTS

Raccoons aren't very picky about what they eat, so you can serve whatever you like. Chester won't mind. If you have a cake, that's great. Or animal cookies, cheese and crackers, pretzels. Top it off with a glass of lemonade.

AS YOUR GUESTS LEAVE...

Be sure to give each a take home find-the animals page.

We hope everyone had a great time.

To see the rest of the Kissing Hand books, please visit our website

www.tanglewoodbooks.com



MY NAME IS



and I'm here
to celebrate
Chester Raccoon's
birthday!

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to celebrate
Chester Raccoon's
birthday!

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PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF

The Kissing Hand

by AUDREY PENN

&

Chester Raccoon's 20TH BIRTHDAY



The Date:

The Time:

The Place:

*Storytelling, Puppets, Games, Crafts, Songs
Refreshments For All*

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