

Tips from the Author

I hope you will read my book often, each time discovering something new and exciting. A great reward, as a visiting children's author and storyteller, is to hear a child shout, "Read it, again!" *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme* offers many opportunities for extended activities. Here are a few ideas:

- In addition to counting the ten rainforest creatures, what other living things can you find and count?
- Use some of the rainforest animal puppets that are available along with a rain stick as "story stretchers."
- Draw and cut out masks for each rainforest creature. Each child can act out the story with his or her mask.
- Talk about the different layers of the rainforest where the animals live and have the children create a rainforest diorama using polymer or Model Magic clay.

Here is a special treat that I've written for this book. As you sing or read the story, try using different body movements for each animal's action.

Marmosets: Swing right arm across body on the word "swing," then left arm on second "swing". (Arms are now crossed.) Raise them up high on hung and grab the air with fingers.

Morphos: Slowly wave both arms at sides for "flit", then bringing hands together in front, flutter fingers quickly.

Parrots: Stamp right foot on first "squawk"; left foot on second "squawk". Then with tiny sideward steps walk stiffly.



Leaf cutter

ants: Get down on hands and feet and quickly scurry to the right and hurry to the left.

Honey bears:

With arms at sides, raise one shoulder to ear on "scramble"; then the other.



On "scrambled and rambled", move both shoulders forward in a circular motion.

Boa constrictor: On the floor, curl on one side, stretching arms way out in front and pull in as if squeezing, on the words, "squeezed" and "pleased".

Poison dart frog: Hop on one foot; then the other and quietly fall down on "plop".

Ocelot: Bending forward, place hands under chin as if waiting. Then jump forward on first "pounce" and backward on second "pounce". Then jump up and down on "bounced".

Sloth: Get on back and move shoulders backwards slowly on "creep". On the word "slept", raise legs as if hanging and hold without moving.

Howler monkey: Place one hand under armpit on first "hoot", and other hand under armpit on second "hoot". Now move both arms with hands still under armpits and "hoot and holler."

At the end of the story, children can run and hide on "find us", either to a personal space if they are sitting on a carpet square or to their desks.

Perhaps you can think of other ways to get children actively involved. I would love to hear from teachers and parents with creative ways to use this book. My website is www.MarianneBerKes.com



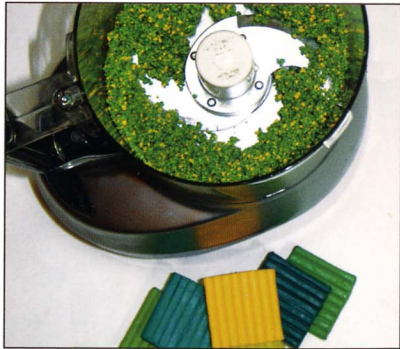
Tips from the Artist

The illustrations I make for my books are created with polymer clay. As a picture book artist and former early childhood arts educator, I believe that polymer clay is a wonderful, friendly, pliable and colorful media for both children and adults to work with. As a fine artist, I love to create art with an array of colors, patterns and textures, and to make things with my hands—just as children do!

My studio is actually a lot like a kitchen. In a refrigerator I often store my clay. I should say "polymer clay" because it is not like clay dug from the earth, but it is actually a moldable factory-made material that is often referred to as the "new clay". I have a variety of shaping tools including a pasta machine, food processor, cake decorating tools and a variety of recycled objects I fashion into sculpting and texturing tools. And there is even an oven in which the clay is baked after the pictures are pieced together. The original art in this book is not flat, which is very satisfying to me because it speaks to my love of both sculpting and painting. The art is called "relief sculpture": sculptures projecting from a flat surface. To create the

two-dimensional illustrations you see in my books, the relief sculptures are photographed (with careful attention to lighting).

Polymer clay offers people of all ages unique ways to communicate and express ideas, as well as to experiment using textures, patterns and colors. You will find many colors available in art and hobby stores - even some translucent and glow-in-the-dark colors. I encourage you to let your imagination soar while you have fun creating your own colorful clay "Jungle Friends"! I would love to see some of your own creations and hear what discoveries you have made. Contact me through the "Authors & Illustrators" section of Dawn Publications' website, www.dawnpub.com.



There are many tools and machines I work with to create my pictures out of polymer clay. One of my favorite gadgets is my food processor. Look at the backgrounds of all of the pictures in this book—I made all of those little balls by tossing different colors of clay into my food processor.



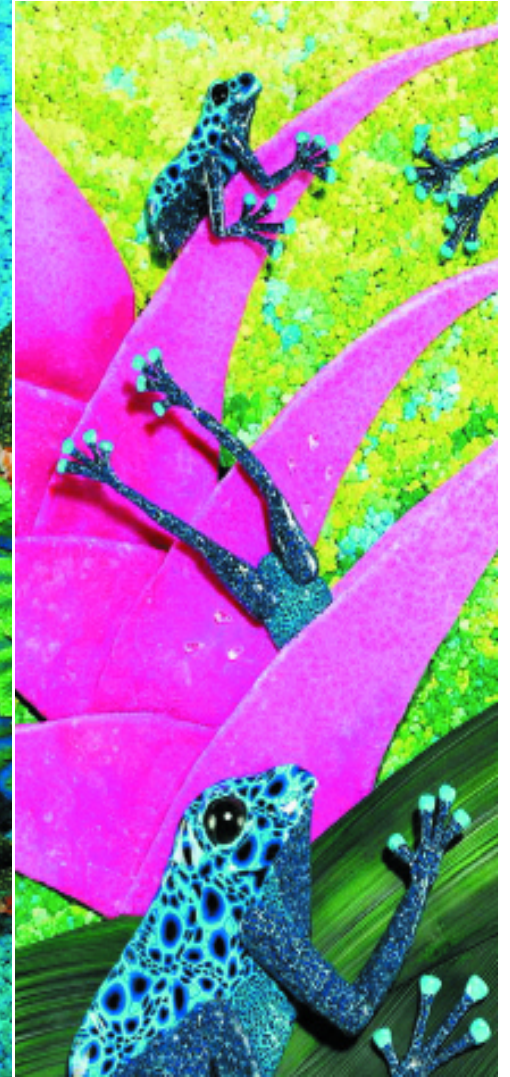
It's fun to work with molds. Sometimes I create molds out of polymer clay and sometimes I mold my clay around objects to capture their shapes, patterns and textures. For the butterflies in this book I created their wings by molding very thin layers of clay over seashells.



I love sculpting with polymer clay. I use my fingers and lots of different sculpting tools to shape and form the subjects in my pictures. Here I am using small knitting needles to sculpt the face of one of the howler monkeys. Some of my sculpting tools are very tiny so I can create fine little details in places where my fingers are too big.



Research is often an important part of creating my art. I go to libraries, museums—and anyplace I can go to learn about the subject matter in my pictures. I also do a lot of research using my computer but my favorite way to do research is going out in nature. Much of my research for this book was done by visiting a zoo and conservatory close to my home.



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Illustrated by Jeanette Canyon

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