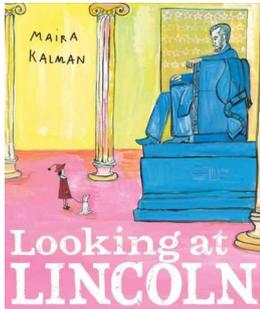


# Oh, the Thinks You Can Think

## Looking at Lincoln



[view in catalog](#)

**ISBN:**

9780399240393

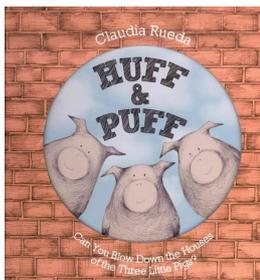
I've always loved the artwork of Maira Kalman and was pleased to see she has a new picture book out this year - on good ol' Abe Lincoln. Her presentation of Lincoln is both biographical and based on her own impressions of how he must have felt in certain situations, so to call this book strictly nonfiction might be a bit of a stretch. (Additionally, complex history is, of necessity, oversimplified - so parents and teachers may want to provide more context for children just being introduced to slavery and the American Civil War.) But don't let these small complaints keep you from reading this book with your kids. Kalman provides a child-friendly portrait of Lincoln and his family and adeptly hits the high points in the life of the great historical figure. I especially like her notes on various topics in the back of the book - such as the one that explains that members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters abide by the motto "We are ready, willing and ABE L." For some lovely examples of Kalman's quirky, colorful art, as well as her writing, see her old blog for the New York Times, called "And the Pursuit of Happiness." Recommended for grades 2 and up.

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think Looking at Lincoln Picture Book

Posted by Ellen A. on Jun 22, 2012 [Ellen A.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



## Huff & Puff



[view in catalog](#)

**ISBN:**

9781419701702

We receive wonderful questions from kids at our "Ask Questions Here" desk, and in our

programs. But we also get a lot of terrific statements. One of my favorites is: "I know that book!" or "I know that story!" This statement is typically shared as an excited, gleeful shout. It feels good to know something. It's empowering.

Children's librarians have a long history of sharing classic nursery rhymes, folk and fairy tales with children: *Three Little Kittens*, *Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Besides being part of our cultural literacy, these stories lay a foundation for an understanding of character, sequence, and plot. Familiarity with folk and fairytales -- and the ability to retell familiar stories - also is an expectation of our state's curriculum standards.

And how do these stories become familiar to our children? By hearing them, reading them -- even seeing them performed -- repeatedly, of course. Read a picture book version of the story together, listen to it on audiobook, tell it in your own words; invite your child to tell the story to you. One of the extra fun things about folk tales is comparing the different versions of the same story. How does James Marshall's version of The Three Little Pigs compare to Paul Galdone's version? And once a child is familiar with the classic tale, they may have greater appreciation for the spin-offs and variants, such as The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka.

Huff & Puff is a new picture book variation of The Three Little Pigs folktale. It's funny and clever enough to be enjoyed in its own right, but children who know the classic tale will have a jump start on predicting what's going to happen in this story -- and being pleasantly surprised by the different conclusion. This version also presents a unique way to invite participation in the story. There are small holes cut out in the pages through which the reader is invited to HUFF & PUFF. If you play the part of the wolf and huff and puff hard enough, the consequence is apparent when you turn the page! Give it a try. Invite your child to take a first step to becoming a storyteller.

Provide an opportunity for them to tell you what they know.

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Oh, the Thinks You Can Think Folklore Huff & puff Picture Book Storytelling

Posted by Lisa C. on Jun 12, 2012 [Lisa C.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



## Dream Big: Read!

Dream  
Big  
READ!

Our Summer Reading Program has taken off like a rocket! Our theme this year is

*Dream Big: Read!* -- a fun theme with many interpretations. Sometimes, you might want to read simply to escape into a dream world for a while. And, of course, your librarians will tell you that the ability to read gives you the ability to achieve your dreams, for learning to read enables you to read to learn. We are unabashed advocates of the notion that knowledge is power. Learning about something, learning how to do something can inspire and empower you to act, to do, to become!

**Read more »**

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think Dream something big : the story of the Watts Towers Long shot : never too small to dream big Picture Book Summer Reading

Posted by Lisa C. on Jun 1, 2012 [Lisa C.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



