

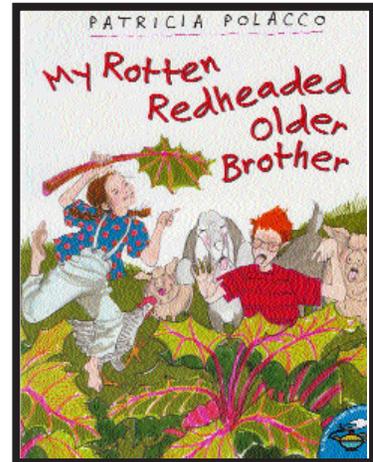
BOOKPALS STORYLINE PRESENTS:

"MY ROTTEN REDHEADED OLDER BROTHER"

By *Patricia Polacco*

Watch online video of actor *Melissa Gilbert* reading this story at <http://www.storylineonline.net>

Polacco's story of her childhood rivalry with her brother Richard harks back to growing up with grandparents in Union City, Michigan. Her grandmother, Bubbie, whom readers will recognize from other Polacco books, doesn't seem to know how rotten Richard is. Polacco conveys the passionate intensity of conflict - trying to pick more berries, and eat more rhubarb, and stay on the merry-go-round longer - as well as the abiding love beneath it. Surrounding it all are Babushka-clad Bubbie's comforting love and warm hugs.



RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Make a list of all the names you know that people call their grandparents.
 - Research and label the origin of these names.
2. What is a "homeland"?
 - What is your family's homeland?
 - List 5 different homelands of the people in your neighborhood.
3. Tell or write about being teased by one of your family members. Describe your relationship to that person.

MORE ACTIVITIES

1. Interview someone who has picked berries.
 - Make a list of "Do's and Don'ts for

4. Describe, tell or write a description of your family. What are the disadvantages or advantages of your place in your family? (only child, oldest child, youngest child, middle child)

5. Describe, tell or write about Trisha's wish. In what way did she get her wish?

6. Bubbie said, "... you have to be very careful what you wish for ... It just may come true!"

- Tell or write what that means.

7. Describe, tell or write about why the traveling carnival was an important part of the story.

Picking Berries Successfully."

2. Read "Thunder Cake" by Patricia Polacco. What are the similarities to this book?

3. Describe a typical day on a farm. How is this different from your life?

4. Make a rhubarb pie. Share it with someone.

5. Collect recipes using rhubarb and make a Rhubarb Recipe Book.

6. Superstitions are important in this book.

• Make a list of superstitions mentioned in this book.

• Make a collection of other superstitions.

• Interview your family about their superstitions and record them.

• Compare the superstitions of your family and those in this book. Which ones are the same?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patricia Polacco, a consummate weaver and illustrator of warm and poignant tales, frequently dips into her own family's story bag for her stories. Ms. Polacco received both a bachelor's and master's degree in Fine Arts at Monash University in Melbourne. She also received a Ph.D. at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology where she studied Russian and Greek iconographic history.

A mother of two children, Traci and Steven, Ms. Polacco lives in Michigan, not far from her grandparents' farm.

Other books by Patricia Polacco:

"Rechenko's Eggs"

"Casey At The Bat "

"The Keeping Quilt"

"Thunder Cake"

"Just Plain Fancy"

"Chicken Sunday"

"Mrs. Katz and Tush"

"The Bee Tree"

"Pink and Say"

"I Can Hear the Sun: A Modern Myth"

"The Butterfly"

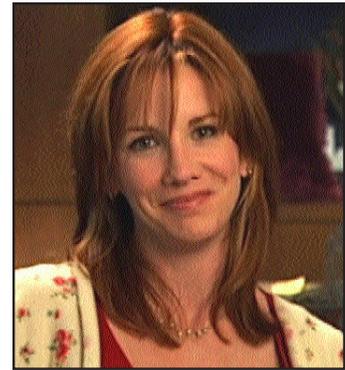
"Betty's Doll"

"Mr. Lincoln's Way"

"When Lightning Comes in A Jar"

ABOUT THE READER

A native of Los Angeles, Melissa Gilbert comes from a long line of entertainers. At the age of two she made her on-air debut modeling baby clothes, and beginning at age seven acted in more than thirty television



commercials. In the summer of 1973 she joined the cast of *Little House of the Prairie*, continuing with the popular series for ten years. A rich variety acting roles have continued, with appearances in such hit series as *Touched by an Angel*, *Babylon 5*, *Fat Actress*, *7th Heaven* and *Nip/Tuck* and work in television features including *Hollywood Wives: The New Generation*, *Thicker than Water* and *Sacrifices of the Heart*. Melissa earned two Young Artist Awards in 1983 and 1984, a TV Land Award in 2006 and both Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. She previously served two terms as the President of the Screen Actors Guild and released her book *Prairie Tale: A Memoir* in 2009.

"My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother"
published by Aladdin Library, 1998

Content developed by JAN POWELL, teacher at
Seeds Elementary School, UCLA, and ELLEN NATHAN,
BookPALS National Program Director.

Storyline is brought to you by the Screen Actors Guild
Foundation.

Learn more about the Storyline Online program at
<http://www.storylineonline.net>