

# Musing Our Children



*Pages and Pens ~ Your Tools to Imagination*

**FALL 2010**

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## How to Use *Pages and Pens* in Classrooms By Lea Schizas and Cheryl Malandrinos

***Pages and Pens*** ~ *your tools to imagination* is a FREE publication offered to parents, children, and teachers. Several writers work hard to bring you interesting material to read and use within your homes and classrooms. Here are some of the ways you can use our newsletter:

### **Discussions**

Read or have the children take turns reading *Pages and Pens* then discuss with them what they learned. Our interviews with published authors open doors for children to read about the creative process from the artist's point of view. Perhaps one of the published books might spark an interest for a class project: to write their own collaborative book, bind it, and have it on display in the library for other classes to get a chance and read their work.

### **Our Wonderful World**

Our history and geography section opens up doors to many interesting class projects. This is an interesting subject for children to look up further information on the country/city we are discussing in each issue. Have them draw a map indicating where this country/city is located and compare their own location. Having them see the difference in distance on paper gives them a better understanding of its location. Discuss important historical events that took place there.

### **Reading Tips**

Implement some of our tips with your students/children and have them write some of their own thoughts on what motivates them to read, what books they enjoy, and so forth. We always welcome letters from students, parents, and teachers to publish in one of our upcoming issues. All you have to do is send us an email to [cg20pm00@gmail.com](mailto:cg20pm00@gmail.com) with "Reading Tips Submission" on the subject line.



## **Reviews for Kids by Kids**

Here is an excellent opportunity to have the class write a short review on any books they've read. All we need is:

The title and author  
School name and grade  
Their short review

We'll publish them in one of our issues as well as in the Kids Review section found on our

Musing Our Children website: <http://musingourchildren.tripod.com/>

## **Authors Circle**

This is a chance to learn more about well known children's authors. Each issue will feature a brief biography and list of works along with links to websites where children find additional information about the author.

## **Poetry Corner**

Use the poems found in this section to encourage children to write their own poetry. Students can compile a poetry collection and hold a poetry reading in their backyard or for classmates and parents. Send us your poems by emailing [cq20pm00@gmail.com](mailto:cq20pm00@gmail.com). Please put "Poetry Corner Submission" on the subject line.

## **Cryptogram Corner**

Author Renée Hand provides fun cryptograms and puzzles in each issue of the newsletter.

## **Game Time**

Learning is fun! Each issue has a variety of puzzles, games and activities that flow into the theme of the newsletter.



Welcome to our FALL 2010 issue of  
***Pages & Pens - your tools to  
imagination!***

**EDITORIAL GUIDELINES:**

If you'd like to contribute to our  
newsletter just send your items to:  
[cg20pm00@gmail.com](mailto:cg20pm00@gmail.com)  
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Submission" on the subject line.  
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teachers and students.

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PENS" on the subject line and your  
message within the body of the email.

**Letter from the Editor**

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## Letter from the Editor



By the time this issue of *Pages & Pens* reaches you, kids will have been in school for a month or so. It's a time for everyone to say goodbye to the long, lazy days of summer and welcome in a season of scheduled activities, homework, and fun holidays.

Here in New England, the weather has cooled and the leaves are in the midst of changing from green to yellow, orange, and red. We'll share a link to a neat website that tells us why this happens. This site also includes a fun word scramble and other science topics.

Louisa May Alcott is featured in our Authors Circle and we'll have some special poems from well-known writers, in addition to Peggy Fieldand's poetry in the Poetry Corner.

In Our Wonderful World we'll be talking about England. We'll share some lesser known fall celebrations and there will be a list of great fall reads selected by our members.

Children's author Renée Hand is back with a new puzzle and the answers to last issue's puzzle, and we'll review the historical storybook, *The Golden Pathway*, by Donna McDine.

Feel free to send us news, reviews, and fun facts to share with your fellow readers. You can reach us at [cq20pm00@gmail.com](mailto:cq20pm00@gmail.com). Please put "Musing Our Children" on the subject line.

Until next time, keep reading and writing!

*Cheryl C. Malandrinos*



## **Our Wonderful World – England**

**England is a country rich in history. It would be impossible to bring you through all that has happened in England since its beginning, but we'll talk about some of the important highlights.**

**While England is only a small island shared with Wales and Scotland, it used to be a nation who was looking to dominate (take over) the world. While still powerful and an ally (friend) of the United States of America, by the time of World War II, America had surpassed England to become the most powerful nation in the world.**

**The Industrial Revolution that led to many great inventions, began in England, but soon spread to Europe and the United States of America. Even though in America, Thomas Edison invented the first commercial electric light bulb in 1879, an English physicist, Sir Joseph Wilson Swan independently invented an electric light bulb in 1860. In 1879, Swan also invented Bromide paper, which is used in photographic prints. London, England was the first city to have an underground railroad.**

**France is on England's east side via the English Channel. France and England fought for hundreds of years over land as they both tried to dominate the world. England would finally defeat Napoleon and the French army in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo.**



**Though they had been bitter enemies for many years, England joined France, along with Russia, to fight against Germany in World War I. England would join forces with America to fight the Germans and the Japanese in World War II.**

**What can be very confusing is that the Kingdom of England hasn't existed since 1707. During that year, the Acts of Union 1707 joined England and Scotland to form the Kingdom of Great Britain. Almost a century later, the Kingdom of Ireland joined the Kingdom of Great Britain and together they formed the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland when the Acts of Union 1800 was passed. Some tried to repeal (cancel) the Acts of Union 1800, and Ireland was divided in two—the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland. The latter stayed part of the union to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. When we refer to it today, we usually call it the UK.**

**The United Kingdom has a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. The monarch (a king or queen) is the head of state and represents the sovereignty (power) of the nation, while the prime minister is the head of government, who represents the will of the people. The current prime minister is David Cameron, who was appointed in May 2010. The present monarch is Elizabeth II.**

**England is the largest country in terms of population and area in the UK. Most of the population is located in London, which is the capital of England and the United Kingdom. London hosted the 1908 and 1948 Summer Olympics and will host the 2012 Summer Olympics.**

**Well-known sites in London are the Tower of London, the Royal Botanical Gardens, Westminster Abbey, and the Royal Observatory.**

**Learn more about England, London, and the UK at:**

**<http://historyofengland.net/> \***

**<http://www.history.uk.com/>**

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_the_United_Kingdom) \***

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demography\\_of\\_London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demography_of_London) \***

**\*These sites were used to create this article.**



## Authors Circle



**Born in Germantown, Pennsylvania in November 1832, Louisa May Alcott spent her childhood in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts.**

**She was educated by her philosopher/teacher father, Amos Branson Alcott. Louisa's mother, Abigail May Alcott, worked to help the poor, and for women's rights, temperance and abolition (ending slavery).**

**Alcott had three sisters: Anna, Elizabeth, and May.**

**In 1858, the Alcott family moved to Orchard House, named for the apple trees that were upon the 12 acres of land they purchased in Concord. Orchard House is where Louisa wrote and set her classic novel, *Little Women*.**

**Louisa worked at whatever type of job she could find, determined she would pull her family out of poverty. She began writing poetry and short stories for magazines.**

**Her first book was published in 1854, followed by another book in 1863. A few years later, she was approached by a Boston publisher to write a book for girls. Her previous writings had been geared toward adults.**





***Little Women*** was published in 1868 and is based on Louisa and her sisters' years growing up in New England during the Civil War. Jo March, just like Louisa, was a tomboy, who became an independent woman that spoke her mind. Louisa would champion some of her mother's causes, like women's rights and abolition.

***Little Women*** was so popular the publisher requested a second volume. ***Little Men*** would find Jo March running a school for boys similar to that of her father's school. In ***Jo's Boys***, Jo March is a writer and mentor to students at a coeducational college.

Louisa May Alcott's success helped her family's finances and each new book brought her greater popularity. During her career she published over 30 books and story collections. She died on March 6, 1888, two days after her father.

Partial list of works:

- ***Flower Fables***
- ***Hospital Sketches***
- ***Moods***
- ***Little Women***
- ***Good Wives***
- ***Little Men***
- ***Jo's Boys***
- ***An Old-Fashioned Girl***
- ***Eight Cousins***
- ***Rose in Bloom***
- ***A Garland for Girls***



To learn more about Louisa May Alcott, please visit:

<http://www.louisamayalcott.org/> \*  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisa\\_May\\_Alcott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisa_May_Alcott) \*  
<http://www.alcottfilm.com/>

\*These sites were used to create this article.



## Poetry Corner by Peggy Fieldand

### Whatever the Weather

I take my dog out in the rain  
to do his dog business. It's plain  
as the leaves he won't chase  
he'd prefer a dry place,  
so we pray for some sun and complain.



### October Morning

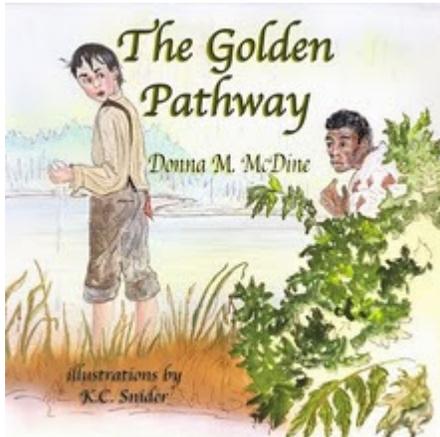
We walk beside a sea glass-calm  
under gunmetal sky.

The cool moist air hangs heavy in clumps  
which burst as we walk by.

Scattered breezes swirl the sand  
around our busy feet,

and barking dogs chase flocks of birds

who answer, "tweet, tweet, tweet."



**The Golden Pathway** by Donna McDine is the touching story of one boy who is willing to take great risks to help someone in need.

Every night David listens to his pa mete out his punishments on the slaves working their farm. He smells the alcohol on his breath. He watches as Ma is never treated with respect. He never expects his pa to be nice to him.

One night after Pa whips their teenage slave, Jenkins, David sneaks out of the house and promises to help him escape to a better life.

The Underground Railroad, also considered the “golden path to freedom”, helped numerous slaves escape the hardships foisted upon them by their owners. In this inspiring story, McDine has brought this portion of history to life for readers ages 9 to 12. *The Golden Pathway* shows how just one person who cares can make a difference in this world. It is a moving story that will educate readers and encourage them to be a person who makes a difference.

I’ve been a fan of K.C. Snider’s artwork for some time, but she has truly outdone herself with *The Golden Pathway*. From the cover art to the interior illustrations, each brings David’s and Jenkins’ story to life in a visual way. From the tears running down David’s cheeks to a bent over Jenkins who has just endured another beating, and from chore time to a trip into town, Snider has captured every emotion, every tiny detail, right there on the page.

*The Golden Pathway* nearly moved me to tears. As someone who has spent a great deal of time studying this period of American history, I’m certain this book has the ability to make a great impression on its readers. I highly recommend it. I hope it finds its way into schools and homes everywhere, as this is a message, you won’t want your kids to miss.

Rating: 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

- **Publisher:** Guardian Angel Publishing, Inc
- **ISBN-10:** 1616330880
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1616330880
- **SRP:** \$9.95 (paperback), \$15.95 (Hardcover), electronic formats available
- **Reviewed by:** Cheryl C. Malandrinos



## Why Do Leaves Change Color?



While searching for a fun and simple way to share why leaves change color, I stumbled upon this neat website titled, [Science Made Simple](#). It wouldn't surprise me if many of you have heard of it already, but since science was never my favorite subject, I hadn't seen it before.

In addition to an article titled, "[Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?](#)" you'll also find science fair project ideas, a sampling of free science articles, a metric conversion chart, and a science store, where you can purchase toys, books, DVDs, and more!

You can also subscribe to their *Science Made Simple Newsletter*.

I know I'll be visiting Science Made Simple again soon.

**Reading Tip: Fall brings many seasonal titles to your local library. Look for special displays of these books in the children's section.**





## **Fall Celebrations**

**Tired of celebrating the same old holidays each year? Here are some lesser known happenings that take place during the fall months.**

### **September**

**Classical Music Month  
National Courtesy Month  
Chicken Month  
Self-improvement Month  
28<sup>th</sup> is National Good Neighbor Day**

### **October**

**Adopt a Shelter Dog Month  
Cookie Month  
National Pizza Month  
Seafood Month  
5<sup>th</sup> is World Teacher's Day**

### **November**

**Child Safety Protection Month  
National Model Railroad Month  
National Novel Writing Month  
Peanut Butter Lovers Month  
9<sup>th</sup> is Young Readers Day**





# October

**The month is amber,  
Gold, and brown.  
Blue ghosts of smoke  
Float through the town,**

**Great V's of geese  
Honk overhead,  
And maples turn  
A fiery red.**

**Frost bites the lawn,  
The stars are slits  
In a black cats' eye  
Before she spits,**

**At last, small witches,  
Goblins, hags,  
And pirates armed  
With paper bags,**

**Their costumes hinged  
On safety pins,  
Go haunt a night  
Of pumpkin grins.**

**John Updike**





# Some One

**Some one came knocking  
At my wee, small door;  
Some one came knocking,  
I'm sure—sure—sure;  
I listened, I opened,  
I looked to left and right,  
But nought there was a-stirring  
In the still dark night;  
Only the busy beetle  
Tap-tapping in the wall,  
Only from the forest  
The screech-owl's call.  
Only the cricket whistling  
While the dewdrops fall,  
So I know not who came knocking,  
At all, at all, at all.**

**Walter de la Mare**





# Black and Gold

Everything is black and gold,  
Black and gold tonight:  
Yellow pumpkins, yellow moon,  
Yellow candlelight;

Jet-black cat with golden eyes,  
Shadows black as ink,  
Firelight blinking in the dark  
With a yellow blink.

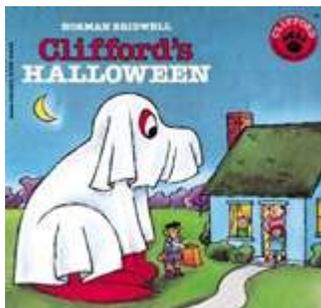
Black and gold, black and gold,  
Nothing in between—  
When the world turns black  
and gold,  
Then it's Halloween!

Nancy Byrd Turner



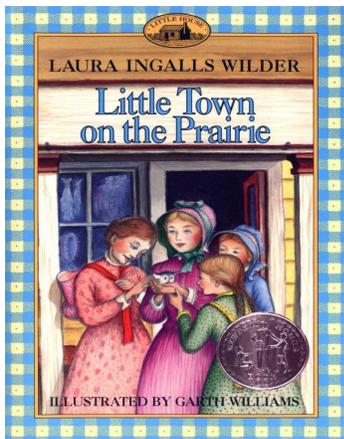
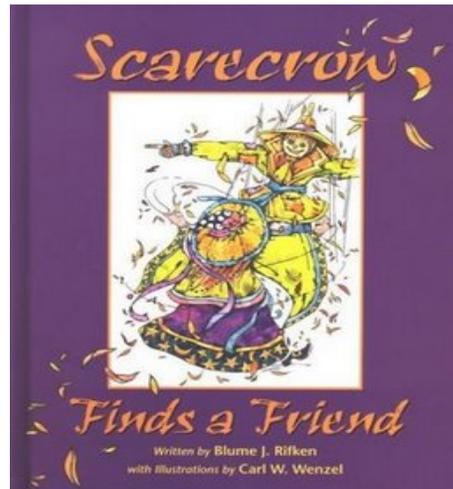


# Great Fall Reads

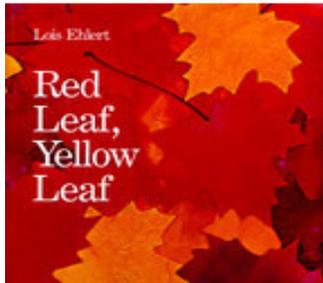


[Clifford's Halloween](#) by Norman Bridwell

[Scarecrow Finds a Friend](#) by Blume Rifken

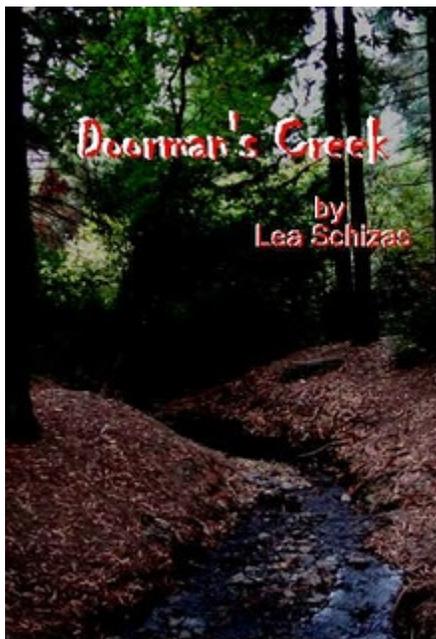
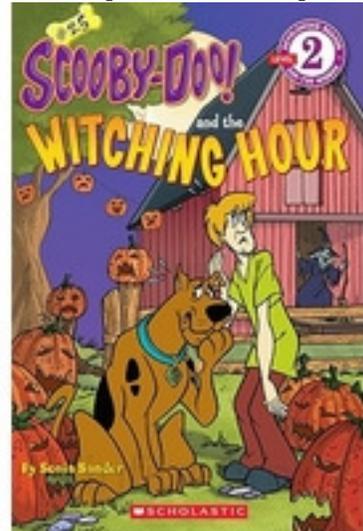


[Little Town on the Prairie](#) by Laura Ingalls Wilder



**[Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf](#)** by Lois Ehlert

**[Scooby-Doo and the Witching Hour](#)** by Sonia Sander (Scholastic)



**[Doorman's Creek](#)** by Lea Schizas



## CRYPTOGRAM CORNER

*By Renee Hand*

On Cryptogram Corner, you will find lots of fun cryptograms and/or puzzles to engage your time. These are challenging and fun. The theme is Fall. All answers will be provided in the next issue.

### ACTIVITY 1:

In this activity you will need to solve the cryptogram. The message has something to do with Fall. Clues are given to help you figure it out. You will need to fill in the rest. Good luck and have fun!

Fall Message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
			R	Z											U						K			T	

Y E V E Y E ' D E V E  
 S D T Z K Z F T J G Z H A I N E R F Z G I D K Z  
 E D P D V E  
 D H D V Z D G R U F J R P A X N K Z H A I J J E  
 Y E .  
 T Z D F



## SUMMER ISSUE'S ANSWERS

S U M M E R      I S      L O T S      O F      F U N  
G T K K C S      O G      A P D G      P M      M T U

W H E N      I T      I S      S P E N T      W I T H  
Z V C U      O D      O G      G Q C U D      Z O D V

T H E      O N E S      Y O U      L O V E .  
D V C      P U C G      H P T      A P J C .



**Fun Fact: Though the cornucopia has long been associated with Thanksgiving, its origins date back to Greek mythology and a feud between Hercules and the river-god, Achelous.**



## COMING SOON TO STORES EVERYWHERE AND ONLINE

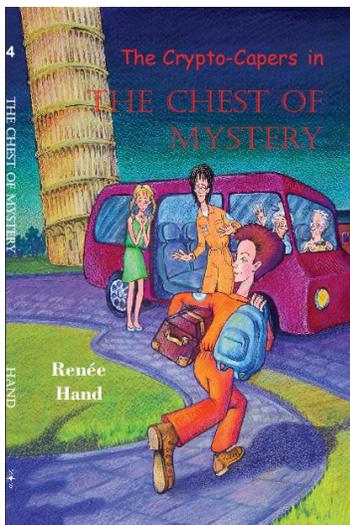
Look for Renee Hand's new release coming soon in September 2010, *The Crypto-Capers in: The Chest of Mystery*. This is a great series for upper elementary and middle school children that gets the reader learning and involved in the story. This mysteries series teaches readers about history, science and math related topics. Below is a summary:

### *The Crypto-Capers in: The Chest of Mystery-Book 4*

#### THE ASSIGNMENT:

In the conclusion of the search for the Golden Monkey, the Crypto-Capers, Granny, Max, Mia and Morris, find more than what they bargained for. From the very beginning, their resolve will be tested. Having found two of the pieces to open the treasure room in book 3, they soon come to realize they only have half of the puzzle solved. Their search for the other two pieces, will become more exigent. The Panther is hot on their trail, sabotaging them at every turn, like they had done to him in Chichen Itza. Feeling like he is close to finding the Golden Monkey, the Panther sends every accomplice he knows to thwart the detective team from finding the pieces, while at the same time, using their talents and knowledge for his own gain.

In *The Chest of Mystery* the team will travel across the globe to Pisa, Italy where they will have to fight for their freedom, or be captured by the enemy. They must be one step ahead, but can it be done when the man who holds all the answers disappears without a trace? The Crypto-Capers list of friends begins to dwindle until they realize the answers are right in front of them, all they have to do is look, and believe. Their fate drops in the hands of one boy, Emmanuel Watson, whose history is tied to the chest, but can he find the strength to do what he must, especially when the world is against him? When so close to accomplishing their goal, obstacles arise, and the scent of betrayal is in the air. Come join the Crypto-Capers in the closure of the Golden Monkey. Good luck!



For more information about this release and Renee Hand's other books, check out her website at [www.reneehand.com](http://www.reneehand.com)

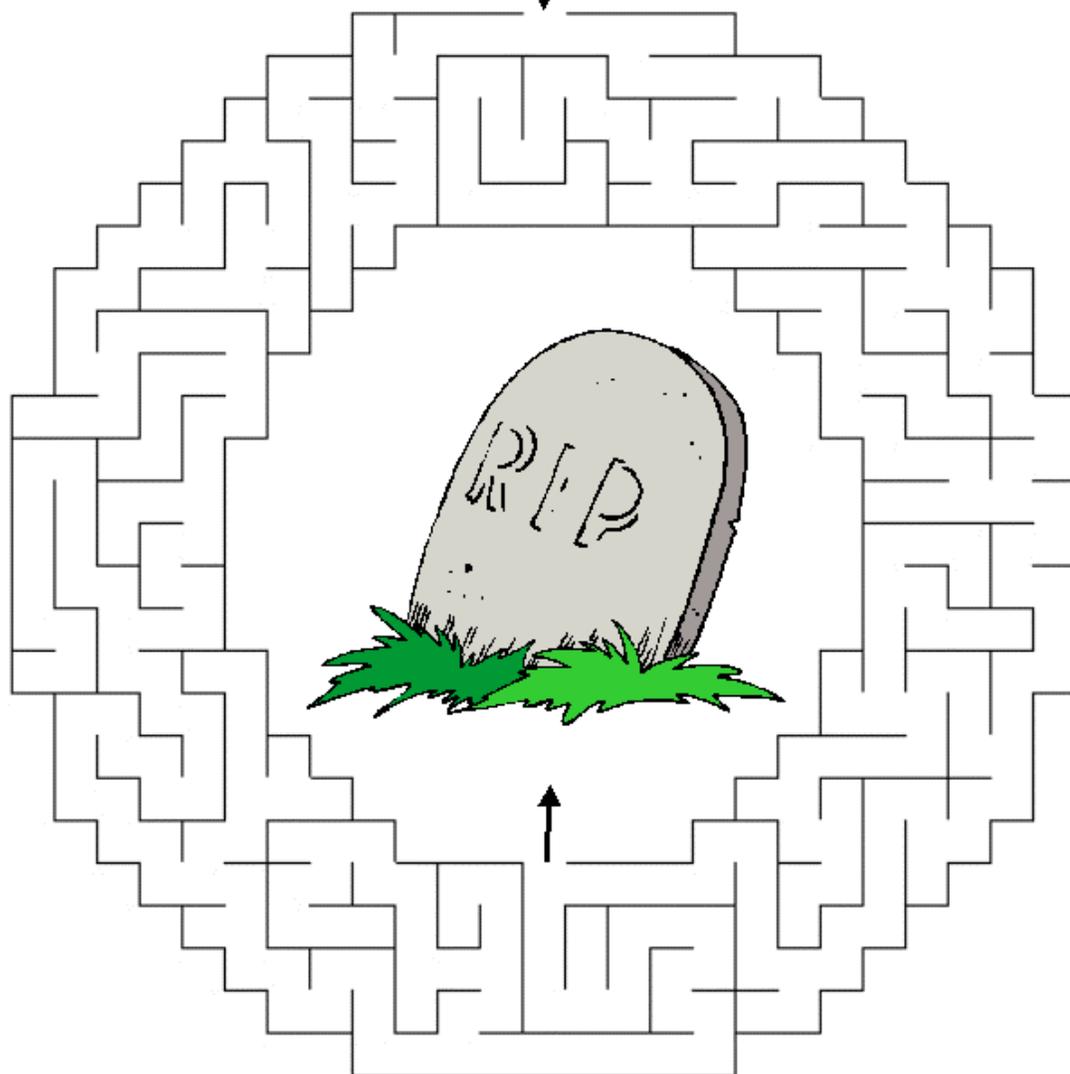
Renee Hand also won an award through *Creative Child Magazine* for book 1 of her Joe-Joe Nut Series, *The Great Pie Catastrophe*. The award was for a Seal of Excellence in Storytelling.



# Halloween Maze



Help the  
ghost  
brothers  
find  
their  
way  
home.



# memory game





# Harvest Fruits & Veggies Word Search



- Orange
- Apple
- Cabbage
- Peach
- Banana
- Broccoli
- Carrots
- Cherry
- Coconut
- Tomatoes
- Potato
- Squash
- Turnip
- Radish
- Corn
- Grapes
- Eggplant
- Beans
- Watermelon
- Mango



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