

A JAN BRETT THEME UNIT

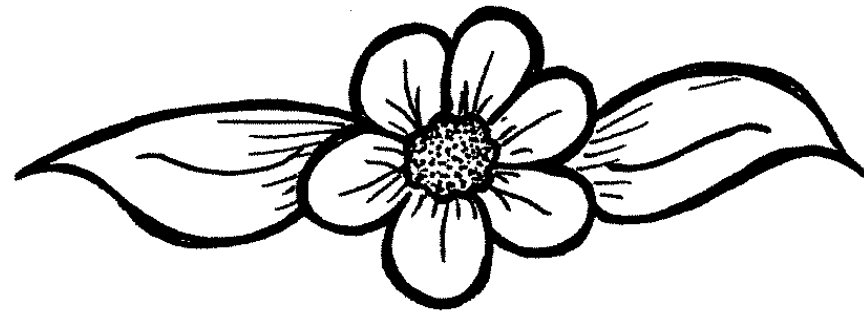
UNIT OVERVIEW

This theme, developed for grades 1- 3, is designed to explore the books and artwork of Jan Brett. The time frame for this unit is three to four weeks. This can be easily adjusted depending on the goals, needs, and more importantly on the interest of each individual class. Since many of her books have Christmas themes, one suggestion might be to begin the unit shortly before Christmas and then complete it following the Christmas break.

All areas of the curriculum are integrated into this unit, including activities related to: literature, poetry, vocabulary development, math, art, music, social studies, science, life skills, physical education, and parent involvement (extending the unit to the child's home). Many of these activities encourage co-operative learning as students develop an understanding of good literature and an appreciation of fine art.

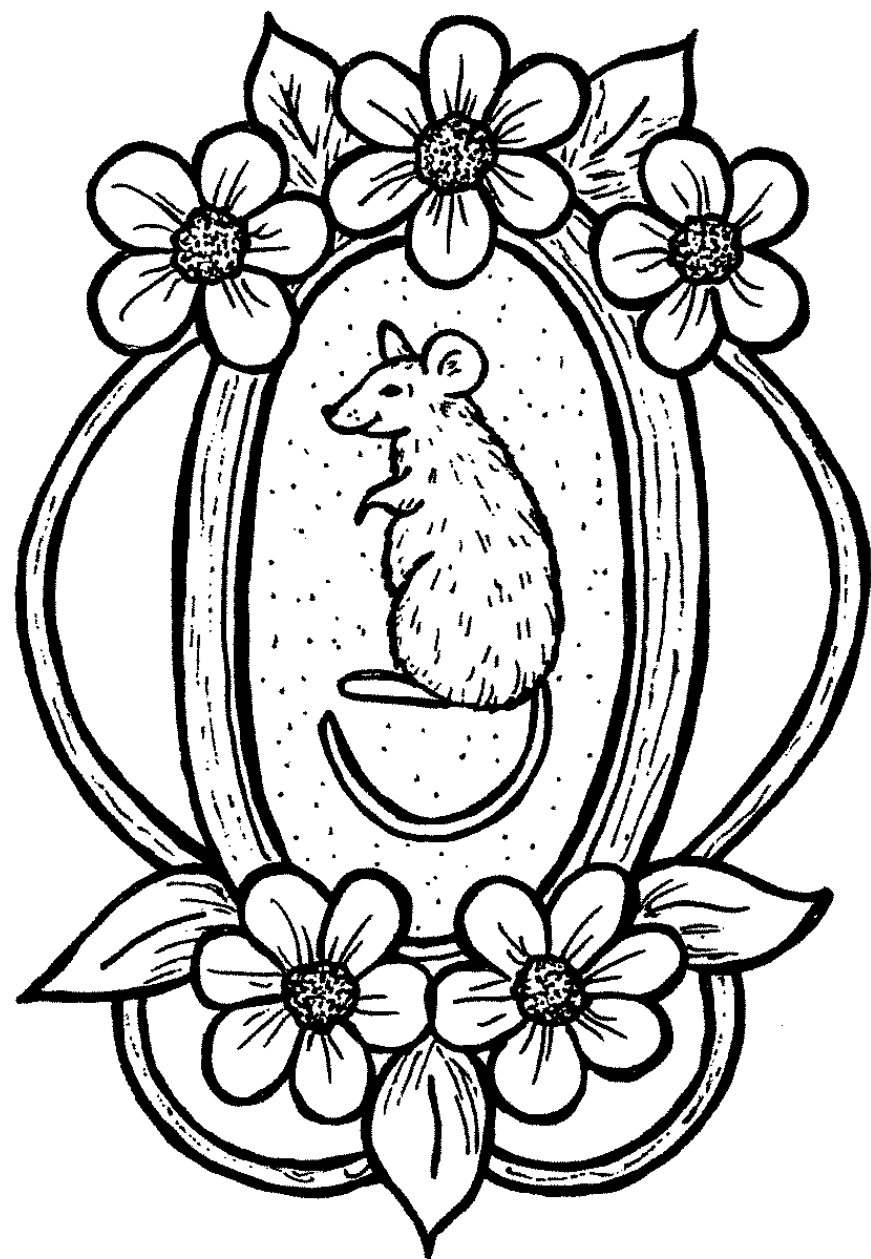
PART I - FOR THE TEACHER

- 1) A List Of Jan Brett's Books
- 2) Who Is Jan Brett?
- 3) Setting Up The Classroom
- 4) Suggested Activities To Enhance The Unit
- 5) Evaluation And Record Keeping - Individual Student Assessment Form , Self-Evaluation Form



PART II - LESSONS AND WORKSHEETS

- Lesson #1- Meet Jan Brett
- Lesson #2 - The Owl and the Pussycat
- Lesson #3 - Happy Birthday Dear Duck
- Lesson #4 - The Wild Christmas Reindeer
- Lesson #5 - Christmas Trolls
- Lesson #6 - Twelve Days of Christmas
- Lesson #7 - Trouble With Trolls
- Lesson #8 - The Mitten
- Lesson #9 - The Hat
- Lesson #10 - Annie and the Wild Animals
- Lesson #11 - Comet's Nine Lives
- Lesson #12 - Berlioz the Bear
- Lesson #13 - Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- Lesson #14 - Town Mouse, Country Mouse
- Lesson #15 - Armadillo Rodeo
- Lesson #16 - Fritz and the Beautiful Horses
- Lesson #17 - The First Dog
- Lesson #18 - Wrapping Up the Unit



WHO IS JAN BRETT?

Jan Brett lives in a seacoast town in Massachusetts, close to where she grew up. She lives with her husband, Joe, their daughter and their many pets. All actively take part in her books.

When she was a little girl, Jan Brett loved to read and be read to. She spent many hours looking at picture books and, at an early age, she decided that she would be an author and illustrator of books. She spent many hours as a child with her crayons, paints and paper, drawing pictures just for enjoyment. Later, as a young adult, she became a student at the Boston Museum School. While there, she spent a lot of time in the Museum of Fine Arts where she studied all forms of art: pictures, sculptures, porcelain, and handicrafts.

Today, much of the inspiration for the stories she writes and illustrates come from the stories she heard as a child, as well as the adventures she had as a child. She spends a lot of time travelling to many different countries where she studies the architecture, costumes, customs, and traditions of the country. She makes use of this knowledge in creating the illustrations for her books.

The people in her family, the people she encounters on her travels, and her pets are often the inspiration when creating the personalities and expressions of the characters in her stories.

The First Dog came about because she studied her own Husky, named Perky. She studied the dog's expressions and attempted to guess what the dog was thinking.

The Wild Christmas Reindeer was inspired by her horse, Westy. When she was demanding with the horse, the horse would not co-operate. When she spoke calmly to the horse, the horse would be co-operative. She took this experience, changed the animals and the setting, and a new book was created.



MARTINIQUE

Name: _____

Where is Martinique located?

Describe the climate of Martinique.

What plants are common in Martinique?

What language is spoken in Martinique?

What is a gommier?

What careers and jobs do the people of Martinique have?

Describe the clothing worn by the people of Martinique.



ANIMAL RESEARCH

Name: _____

Name of the animal _____

Animal Characteristics:

What family of animals does it belong to? _____

Animal's Habitat:

Animal Babies:

What the animal eats:

Other interesting facts about the animal:

MATCHING ACTIVITY - COMET'S NINE LIVES

Instructions: Make 10 copies of this activity on manila tag. Cut each sentence so that it is on a separate strip and store them in envelopes marked: *Comet's Nine Lives*. Divide the class into groups of two or three giving each group an envelope of sentences. Have each group work cooperatively to match the sentences correctly. After the students have completed the assignment, collect the envelopes and save them for the next time you do a Jan Brett theme.

Comet lost life number one . . .

. . . by nibbling some tasty-looking foxgloves.

Comet lost life number two . . .

. . . when he was buried under a pile of bestsellers.

Comet lost life number three . . .

. . . afloat in the high seas.

Comet lost life number four . . .

. . . by falling from a tree into a tuba.

Comet lost life number five . . .

. . . when he fell headfirst into a milkshake.

Comet lost life number six . . .

. . . when he flew from a bicycle.

Comet lost life number seven . . .

. . . when an actress threw a shoe at him.

Comet lost life number eight . . .

. . . caught in Hurricane Elmadore.



STORY MAP - FRITZ AND THE BEAUTIFUL HORSES

Name: _____

Beginning:

Middle:

Ending:

STORY MAP

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT JAN BRETT

Name: _____

Before we studied Jan Brett and her books, I knew:

Some new things that I have learned are:

I still wonder about:

If I met Jan Brett, I would ask:

REFLECTION

Dear _____,

I enjoyed looking at your work samples. I really liked:

One thing I would like you to work on is:

Love from, _____

LETTER WRITING

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT FORM

Student's Name: _____

Date(s) Observed: _____

3 - mastered 2 - competent 1 - developing 0 - undeveloped

Attitudes

Skills and Processes

Knowledge

ASSESSMENT