



arttails

by MONET MOUSE

“April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go.”
– Christopher Morley

MONET MOUSE'S **ARTRECIPE** Where's Bunny?

Ingredients:

- Yellowed pages from old paperback books. The older yellowed pages are a must! Appropriate content for children. (An xacto knife used with a metal ruler makes a nice clean cut when removing pages from the book.)
- Torn pieces of paper from newspaper or photocopied paper with text. (Provides a little contrast since this paper will make up the rabbit... the bunny should blend in a bit so it is safely camouflaged.)
- Cotton balls - to pull off a little snippet and make a tiny tail.
- Small buttons
- Glue stick

Using shredded or torn paper from newspaper, design and sculpt a bunny on the page of an old book page. Add a cotton tail. Glue a button eye.

I'm sure a bunny must remember everything he's told, because his ears are oh, so large . . . just think how much they'll hold!



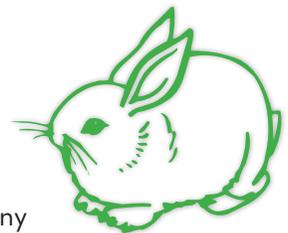
Monet Mouse

Monet Mouse Mini



Draw Some Bunnies

Bunny Fingerplay:



Here is a bunny with ears so funny
(thumb on ring finger, index and middle finger flopped down for ears.)

Here is his home in the ground
(other hand with thumb and fingers curled to make a hole.)

When a strange noise he hears, he pricks up his ears
(index and middle fingers pop up.)

And hops to his hole in the ground.
(bunny hops into hole.)

Monet Mouse Story

The little mouse from France was dragging. He was in a slump. He felt like his ears weren't connected to his head properly. His tail had a crick and smudges of paint spilled earlier. The April morning had not been going well for Monet Mouse who was feeling blue, the color of a sad artist among other things. He needed a friend to talk with, so he closed his pink door with a click and shuffled over to P.J. Page's house.

P.J. Page is a tiny bunny who lives in a most interesting home called a burrow. He collects scraps of paper from newspapers, magazines and especially old books. Anything with words. From them, he snips and places together story after story. Like a puzzle, P.J. pieces and glues creating a collage which is his entire burrow! It is covered with letters, words, sentences, chapter after chapter . . . from floor to wall to ceiling, every baseboard, window frame and ledge. Upon counter tops and chairs. Lettered frames hug stories that paint with words. The little oatmeal-colored, brown and black bunny blends right in. If Mr. Page is asleep or holding very still, he is almost impossible to see. "Petite lapin, where are you?" whispered Monet Mouse as he knocked. "Hop on in," echoed a reply from twisty turn-y tunnels.

"C'est moi, Monet Mouse. I have composed a poem for you." He cleared his throat to begin. "Ah hum . . ." "You make a happy home in every word, Je suis ici for a story to be heard."

"Merci!" P.J. Page hopped right over to the grey mouse looking out of sorts. He offered a welcoming hug and favorite tea. All jitters! Monet Mouse wiggled his ears. He twitched his whiskers. He sniffled. A deep breath in . . . and out . . . ahhh! Now seated comfortably in a lovely afternoon sunbeam, Monet described his morning disappointments. He felt a little better because Page listened most attentively, as bunnies do so well. His eyes looked at the familiar comforting letters and words and rested on Page who was such a part of them and they of him. From what looked like the wall itself (but was actually a shelf,) he selected and lovingly opened a book. His delightful voice began to weave a wonderful story - a story that took M.M. from his misadventure, lifted his heart, imagination, and turned his day around. "Your stories are treasures and no bunny tells a story like you!" sighed Monet most contentedly.

"Thank you, my friend, and what good is a story if not shared?" P.J. Page patted his shoulder in adieu. Monet perched his little beret upon his head and laughed "Everybody needs some bunny who is all ears."



MONET MOUSE'S ARTRECIPE Hoppin' Bunny Story

Hop on over! Raise those rabbit ears! What do you hear today? Begin with a sentence. Then, sentence by sentence; write a story together as each family member takes a turn. Hop to it and use a different color of marker for each new sentence. In between each one, stamp a bunny print or make a tiny bunny drawing of each person. This might be something you build together each day, for a week or over a longer period of time.

Supplies:

- Display a large craft paper or newsprint for a Hoppin' Bunny story in a place everyone can easily add to it.
- Assorted fine colorful markers
- Stamp print
- Stamp pad

 Monet Mouse