



art tails

by MONET MOUSE

MONET MOUSE'S **ARTRECIPE** Clay Storyteller Sculpture

The Storyteller figures are hand built with red pottery clay, bisque-fired and usually painted. Open mouths indicate storytelling to one or more listeners clamoring to hear. Explore the world of the Pueblo Cochiti clay figures from the 1880s, contemporary storyteller sculptures of Helen Cordero, and those since inspired by her. Continue the tradition and create one of your own. Parents construct the larger storyteller figure and children, the smaller ones listening!

Ingredients:

- Sedona red pottery clay if kiln available for firing. Or clay that will air dry.
 - Small wooden sticks, sharpened pencils or toothpicks.
 - Water mister to moisten clay
 - Sponge, paper towels and water for clean up
1. PINCH off some of the red clay. (Monet Mouse wants to reassure you that it's quite alright to pinch clay!)
 2. ROLL it between the palms of your hands to work out air bubbles. Make it into an oblong shape and then roll a smaller ball shape for the head.
 3. ADD arms and legs which can be pinched and pulled from the main shape or added by using a little more clay.
 4. DAB a touch of water to any piece of clay you are attaching. Pretend the water is glue. It helps everything stick together. Make sure your storyteller and children fit snugly and compactly. If pieces wiggle while the clay is wet, they will snap off as they dry.

1. PRESS the point of a wooden stick into the clay to make eyes. An open mouth is most important - there's story-telling going on! You can scratch other details and designs into the figure to suggest clothing and patterns.

2. TURN the storyteller sculpture over and carefully make a hole in the bottom beginning with the wooden stick and then using your index finger to open it a bit more. If a clay structure is too solid, it might explode when fired in the kiln. If using other clay, this step isn't necessary.

3. CLEAN UP your area; water, sponge and paper towels will do the trick!

4. DRY the clay completely and fire (bake) it in a kiln (much hotter than an oven!) When cooled, the sculpture you will hold is a bisque (fired once in the kiln.) You might want it to remain the soft orange color or you can paint it with acrylic paint.



 Monet Mouse



T

hink of all the places you hear stories. At the beach, on a boat, a walk, in school. You listen to the familiar voices of a teacher, Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad. Monet Mouse's ears wriggle when he happily remembers the stories told around campfires as sparks crackle and lift with smoke to the sky. He smiles thinking of those shared with friends and accompanied by wind, birds, and crickets while lying on a carpet of soft summer grass. At the beach, on a boat, a walk, in school . . . très bien!



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f you are watching for him, you may notice Marlon the Moth alighting upon a window pane. Marlon is a good listener and lives to collect stories. Why, just the other night he was spotted by Monet Mouse! The tiny moth was fluttering over a bedtime story the rabbit, P. J. Pages, was telling Monet at a sleepover. Marlon gathered it on his wings and flew to a storyteller to pass it on. A moth's whisper is almost impossible to hear, but a true storyteller does and it is a mystery exactly how. The storyteller may wonder, "What an amazing thought! How ever did I think of it? Was it a dream?" Things like that. Imagination comes to life! Now, tell a story and give it wings . . .



MONET MOUSE'S **ARTRECIPE**

Moth Marlon the Story Collector

Some moths are very big and some very little. They are all different shapes and colors. What do you think Marlon looks like?

Ingredients:

- Coloring page of moth
- Contact paper
- Tissue pieces separated in colors: blues, greens, yellows, whites (since moths are often variations of one color.)
- Markers
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Crayons



Monet Mouse



Lay the non-sticky side of contact paper on top of the coloring page of a moth.



Stick pieces of small tissue paper ON the sticky side.



With marker write a letter, your name, a word, a sentence, the title of a book special to you, even the beginning of a story on some of the tissue.



Sandwich another piece of contact paper over the tissue pieces with the sticky side covering them. Smooth and press together.



Leave a little bit of clear contact paper to border the edge of your moth as you cut it out.



Punch a hole in the top and tie a piece of yarn to display your moth near a window so daylight and moonlight will shine through.



Enjoy coloring the moth page!

