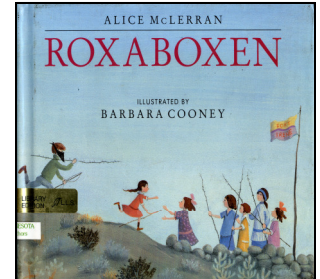


**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

Title: *Roxaboxen*
Author: Alice McLerran
Illustrator: Barbara Cooney
Publisher and Copyright Date: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1991



Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author

Summary: This is a story of Roxaboxen, a rocky hill with some sand and rocks, some old wooden boxes, cactus and other items used to create an imaginary world.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- Read the information at the back of the book about how the author and illustrator created this book.
- Share a personal story of make believe places you've built.
- Read the story through and then go back and discuss certain pages where there are descriptions.

Questions before reading:

- Can you name a make believe person from any story you've ever seen or heard?
- Can you name a make believe place from any story you've ever seen or heard?
- Have you ever created a make believe place? Did you name it?
- What materials did you use to build your place? What were some of your favorite things to do there?

To Introduce this story say: We're going to read a story about a girl who remembers the make believe place where she played as a child. Let's see if it sounds like a place you have built. Listen to things that might be the same or different from yours.

Questions After Reading:

- Did the story remind you of a place where you have played?
- Did it make you feel like you could have been a part of this story? How?
- Do you think adults that you know think about times when were kids and played in make believe places? Why?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- In your mind, imagine a make believe place and then draw it.
- Music:**
- Play a recording of the song “Puff the Magic Dragon” by Peter, Paul & and talk about the make believe world described in the song.
- Science:**
- Go for a walk outside and collect rocks, and consider starting a rock collection. Learn about different rocks found in different parts of the United States.
 - Learn about life in the desert. Compare and contrast animals found in Minnesota and animals found in the desert of Arizona. Compare and contrast the climates of Minnesota and Arizona.
- Writing:**
- Write a short descriptive paragraph about your make-believe place.
 - The events in this story really happened to the author’s mother. Write a story about something that really happened to you or during the childhood of one of your family members.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- List these words on the board: ocotillo, ford, pottery, amber, amethyst, bridle, thorns, bandits. Fold a piece of paper into 4 sections and write a word in each section. Add an illustration that will help you remember the word.
 - Ask the children to describe make believe places or tell make believe stories from their culture.
- Related Books:**
- ***The Big Brown Box*** by Marisabina Russo (Greenwillow, 2000)
 - ***Miss Rumphius*** by Barbara Cooney (Viking, 1982)
 - ***Mud is Cake*** by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by David McPhail (Hyperion, 2002)
 - ***My Wagon Will Take Me Anywhere*** by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel, illustrated by Tom Newson (Dutton, 2002)
 - ***What Shall We Play?*** by Sue Heap (Candlewick, 2002)
 - ***Harold and the Purple Crayon*** by Crockett Johnson (HarperCollins, 1972)

