



The Estate of Barbara Cooney Backlist Rights Guide

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ABOUT BARBARA COONEY (1917—2000)

Barbara Cooney traveled the world, lived in a house by the sea in Maine, and made the world more beautiful through her art. She was a two-time Caldecott Medal winner, for *Chanticleer and the Fox* in 1959 and *Ox-Cart Man* in 1980. Her beloved book *Miss Rumphius* was the winner of the American Book Award in 1982. Barbara Cooney died in 2000 at the age of eighty-two.

Her estate is currently represented by ACM Agent Lauren MacLeod.

WHEN THE SKY IS LIKE LACE

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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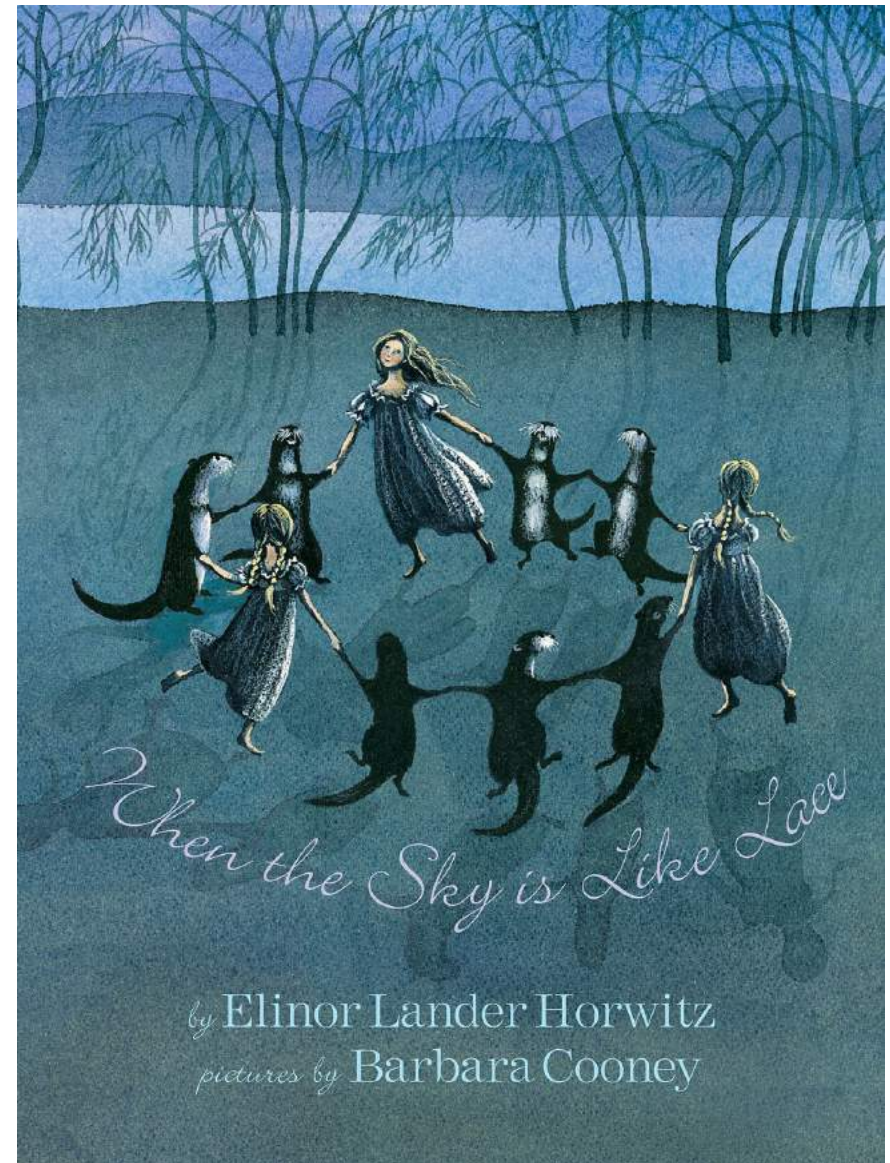
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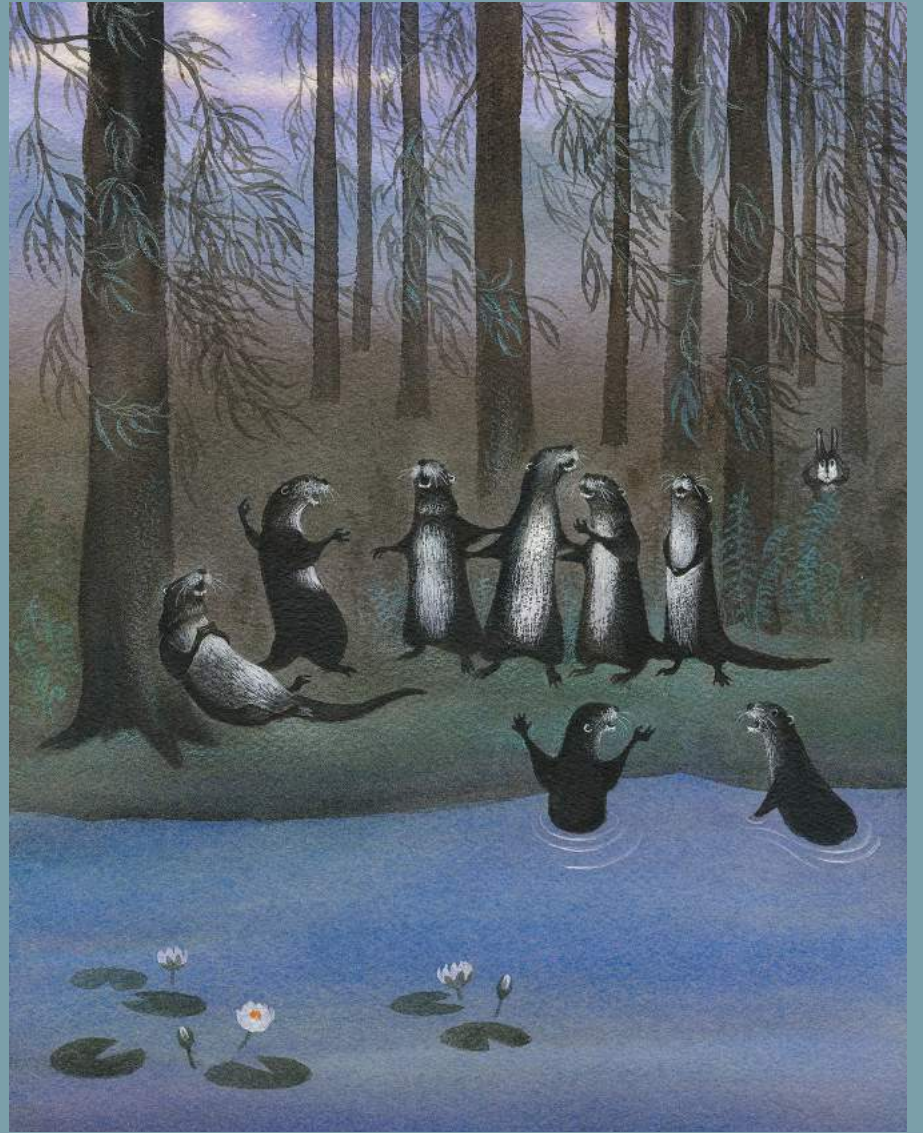
Korean (Moonji Publishing) *Expired*

Haunting and dreamlike, this classic picture book describes the strange-splendid and plum-purple things that occur when the sky is like lace. On a night on which anything can — and indeed will — happen, three girls venture out to listen to otters sing, eat spaghetti with pineapple sauce, and watch trees dance.

Horwitz's playful text will delight and challenge readers to go out on a bimulous night with singing otters and sulky snails. Bewitching paintings by legendary artist Barbara Cooney complete the magic, using wispy and shadowy watercolors to portray that special place where only your imagination can take you.

ACM can facilitate contact with the Elinor Lander Horwitz Estate.





CHRISTMAS (1967)

Written and Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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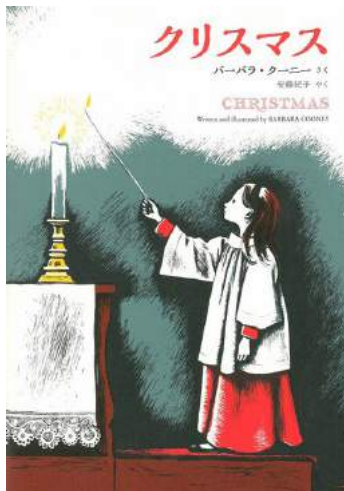
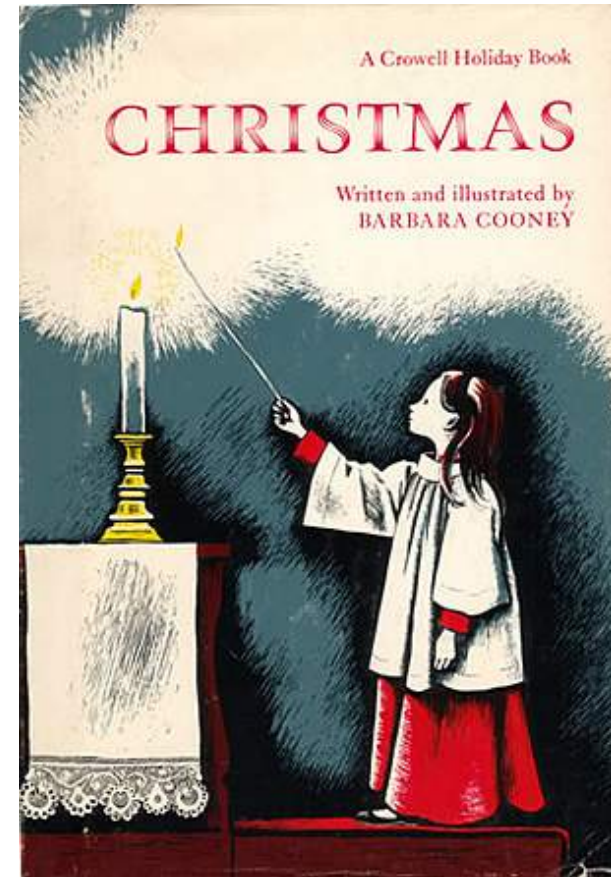
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Japanese (Rokurin-sha Co., Ltd.) *Expired*

Christmas is coming! The air is full of magic and bright with love. Candles gleam in the dark winter twilight. Kitchens are warm with the smell of good things cooking. Around the world Christian children wait to celebrate the birth day of a little Jewish boy who was born long ago, in a faraway stable.

Barbara Cooney has told the story of Jesus and the legends of Christmas with reverent simplicity. Long before Jesus' birth there were other midwinter festivals, with gifts and feasting and song. These ancient customs are woven into our own celebration. All the beauty of a beloved holiday has been captured in words and pictures that sparkle with happiness and wonder.





THE LITTLE JUGGLER (1961)

Written and Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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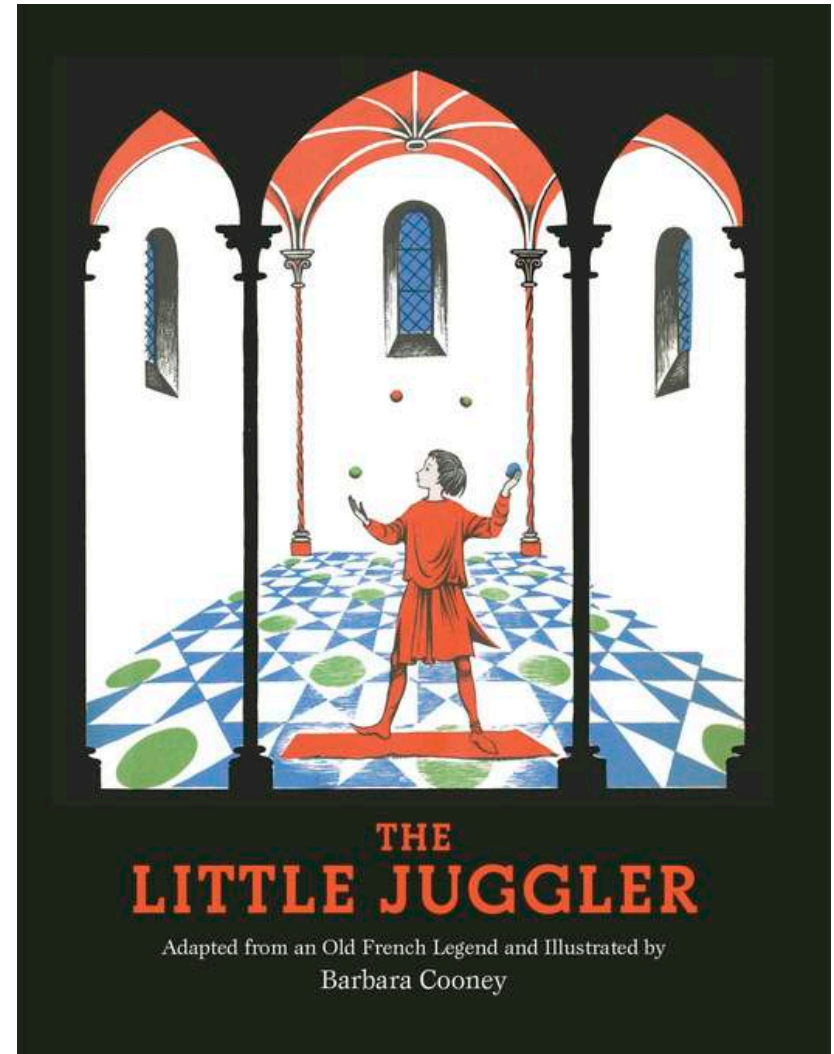
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Japanese (Gendai Kikakushitsu) *Expired*

Like many others who have retold the tale of the juggler, Barbara Cooney dropped clues about her sources of inspiration. In the foreword to the first edition of 1961, she reported having been exposed to the story first on the radio in 1945. She knew that the roots of the story stretch back seven hundred years to a poem from France—her title page describes it as “an Old French legend.” When researching her project, Cooney journeyed to the Parisian library that holds the thirteenth-century manuscript with the best text and the sole illumination extant from the Middle Ages. Among other manifestations of the narrative that caught her attention, Cooney singled out the opera of French composer Jules Massenet, “The Juggler of Notre Dame,” and the short story of 1890 by Anatole France. From France’s retelling of the medieval poem, the American book artist took for her protagonist both the name Barnaby and the profession of juggler.

From these sources, Cooney, a two-time recipient of the Caldecott Medal, made a story of beauty and simplicity to entertain and edify young audiences. In it, she helps them to appreciate how they can offer their services, no matter how humble. Cooney’s gentle masterpiece has lived on from the mid-twentieth century into the present.

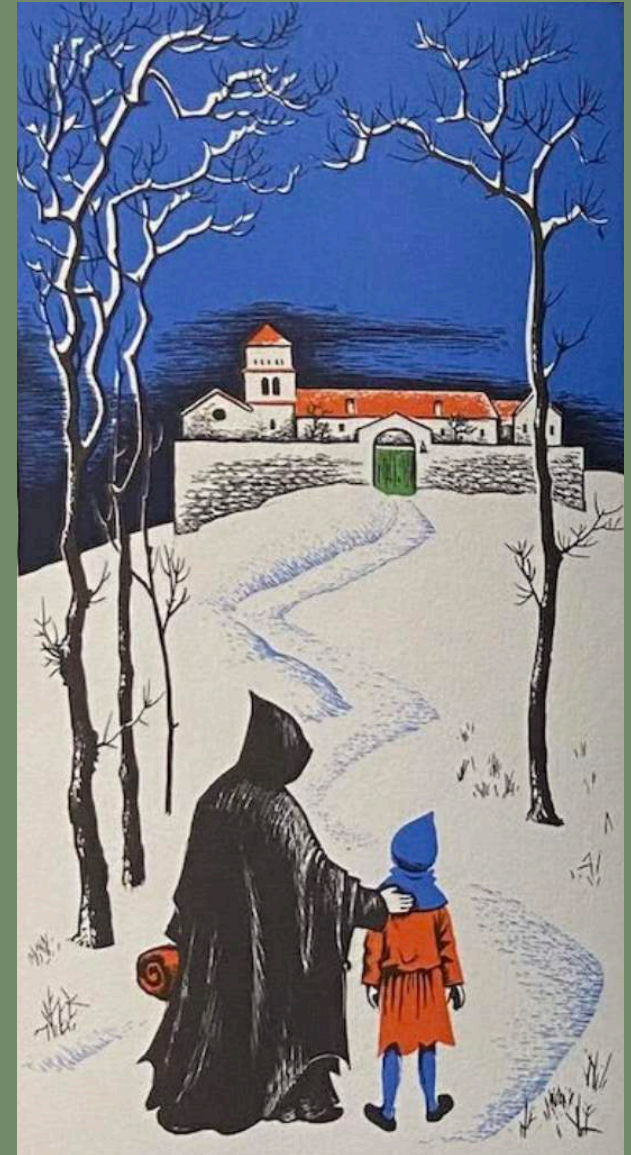
From [Harvard University Press](#)





ONCE UPON A TIME, many more than a hundred years ago, there lived a certain minstrel boy, a boy named Barnaby, whose tale I now will tell you even as it was told to me. He had neither mother nor father, no, not even a roof to call his own. He wandered far, to and fro, and in many places. Like a snail, he carried on his back all that he had in the world, for he owned only the clothes he wore and a few articles rolled inside a worn rug which he carried on his shoulders. These things inside his rug were his treasures: two sticks, a few hoops, some balls, and a handful of apples. For he was a street juggler, nothing more nor less.

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THE REMARKABLE CHRISTMAS OF THE COBBLER'S SONS (1994)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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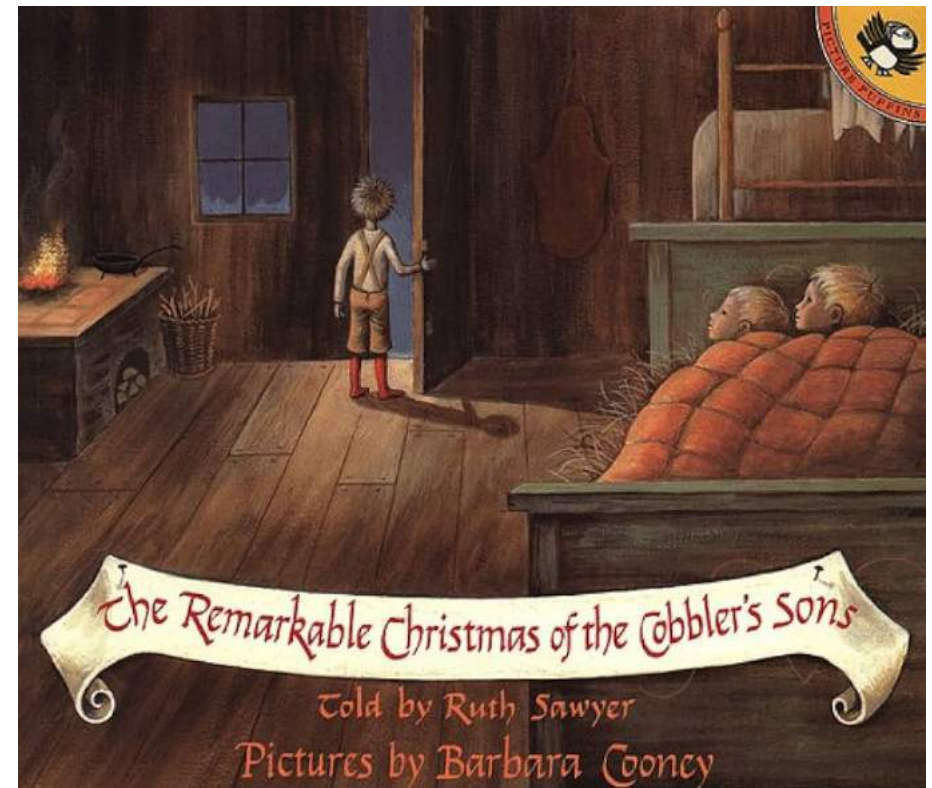
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Korean (Sigongsa)

For Fritzl, Franzl, and Hansl, the three sons of a poor cobbler, Christmas promises to be a bleak and hungry holiday, until a chance encounter with a mischievous goblin king brings magic and joy into the best Yuletide celebration ever.

Story by Ruth Sawyer (August 5, 1880 – June 3, 1970).



BURTON AND DUDLEY (1975)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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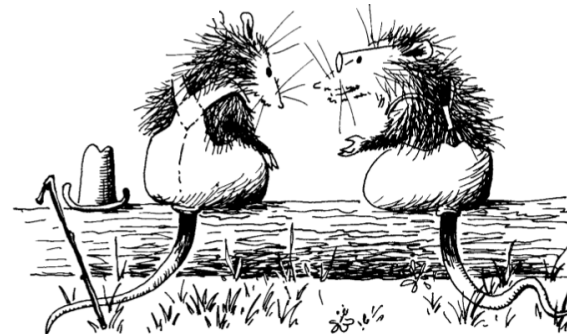
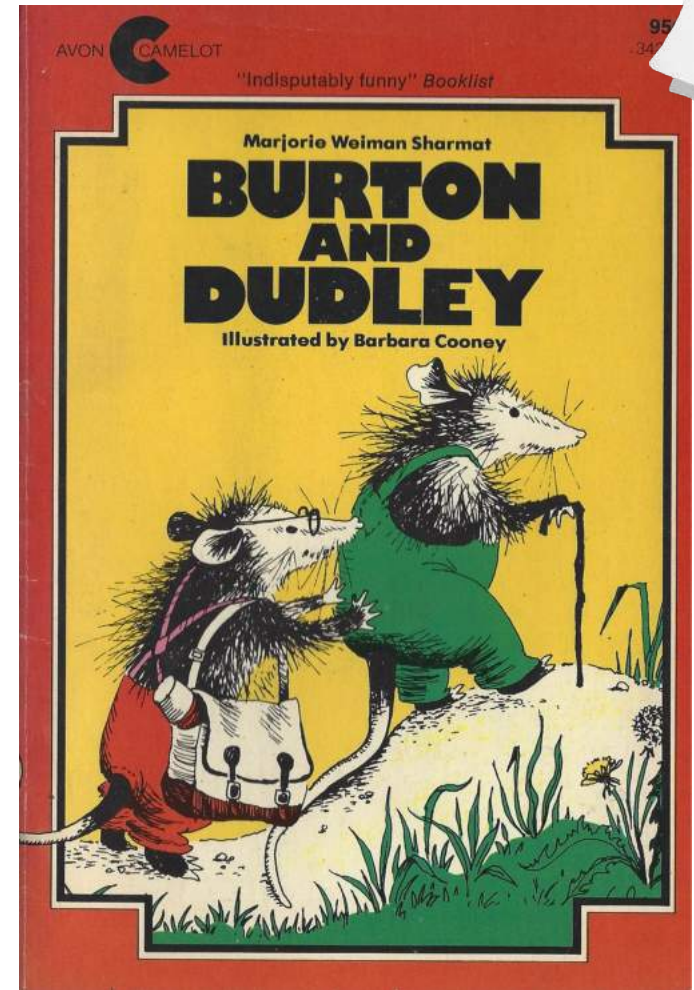
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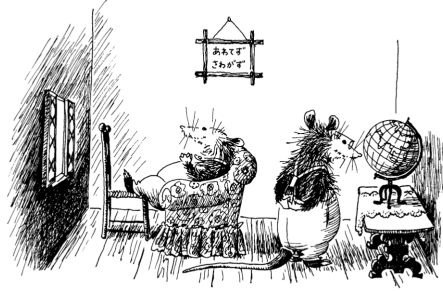
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Japanese (Holp Shuppan)

Active and carefree Dudley Possum asks lazy and fussy Burton Possum to accompany him on a twenty-mile walk.

Story by Marjorie W. Sharmat (November 12, 1928 – March 12, 2019).





SEVEN LITTLE RABBITS (1972)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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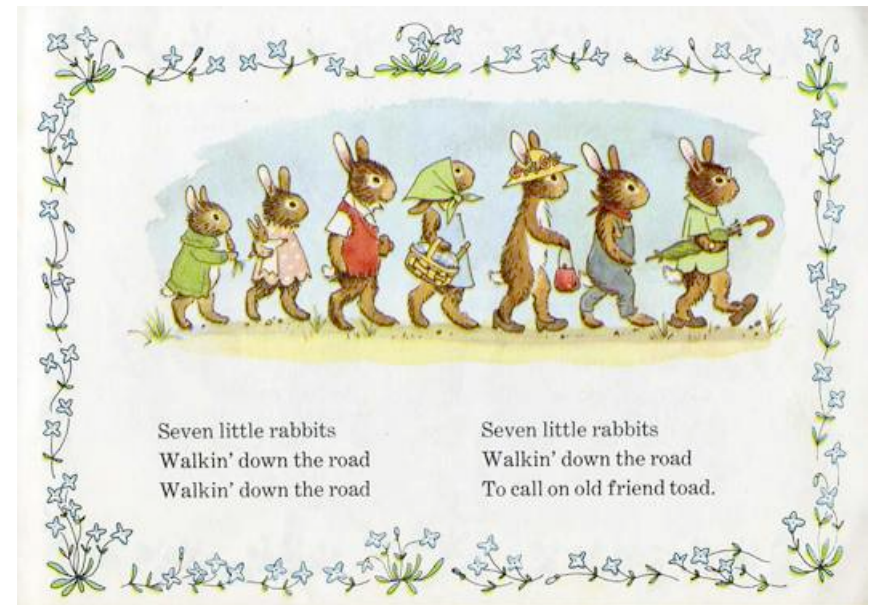
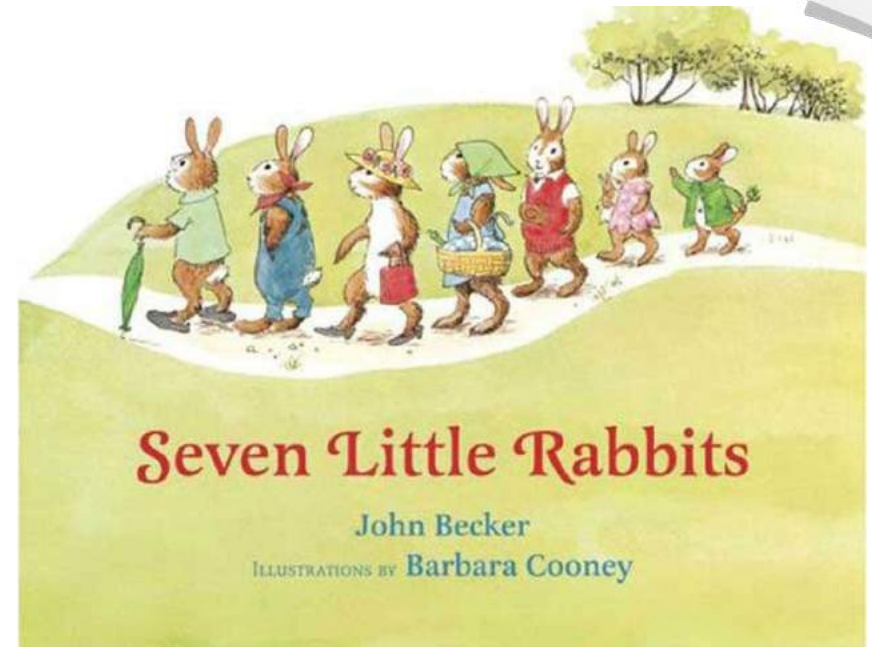
Japanese (Kogakusha)

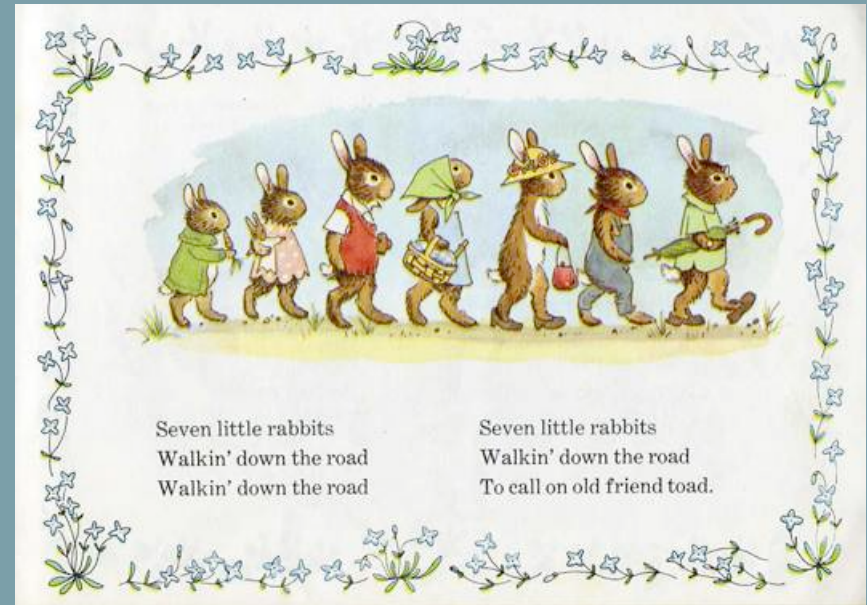
*"Seven little rabbits walkin' down the road,
walking down the road to call on old friend toad."*

Over half a million children have counted their way to sleep with these beloved seven little rabbits.

Available in its original hardcover format for the first time in twenty years, this delightful first counting book, chock full of gloriously endearing illustrations and humorous asides by two-time Caldecott-Medal-winner Barbara Cooney, is sure to be a bedtime favorite for a new generation of bunny lovers. Just the right size for little hands, the repetition and rhyme invite reader participation right up until the moment it lulls its unsuspecting audience into slumberland.

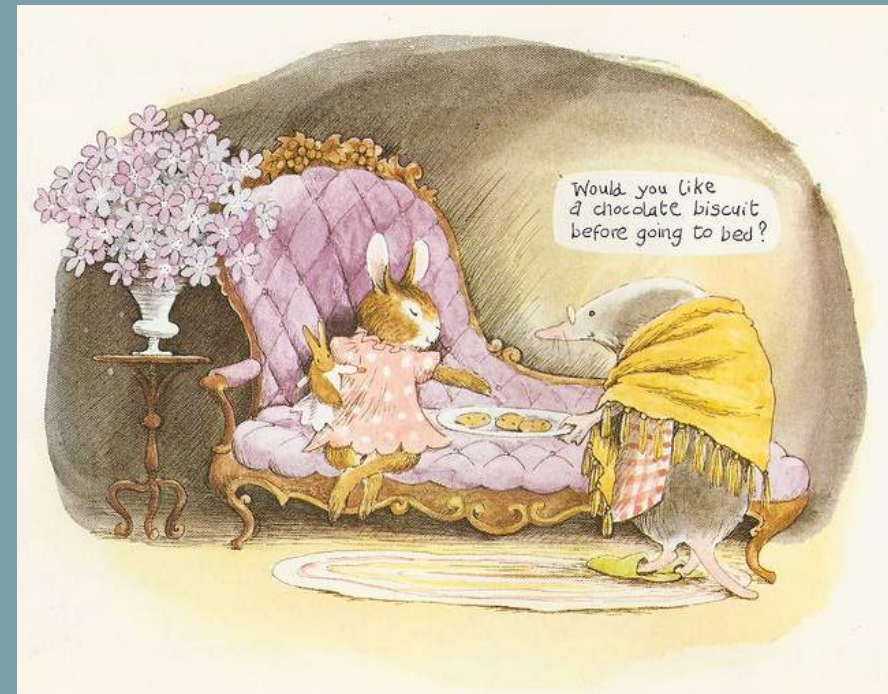
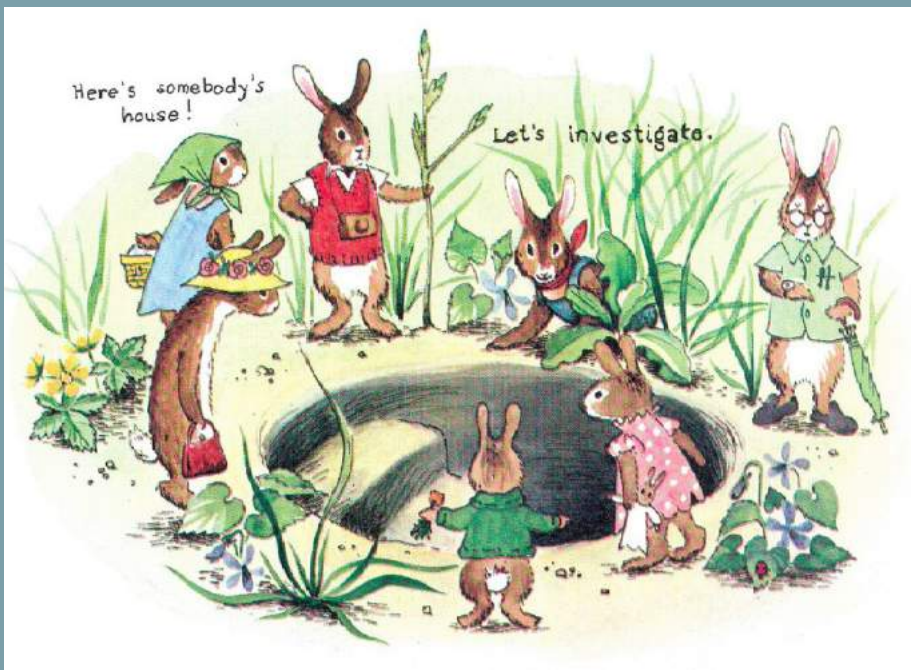
Story by John Becker.





Seven little rabbits
Walkin' down the road
Walkin' down the road

Seven little rabbits
Walkin' down the road
To call on old friend toad.



A WHITE HERON (1964)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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Japanese (Nora Shoten)

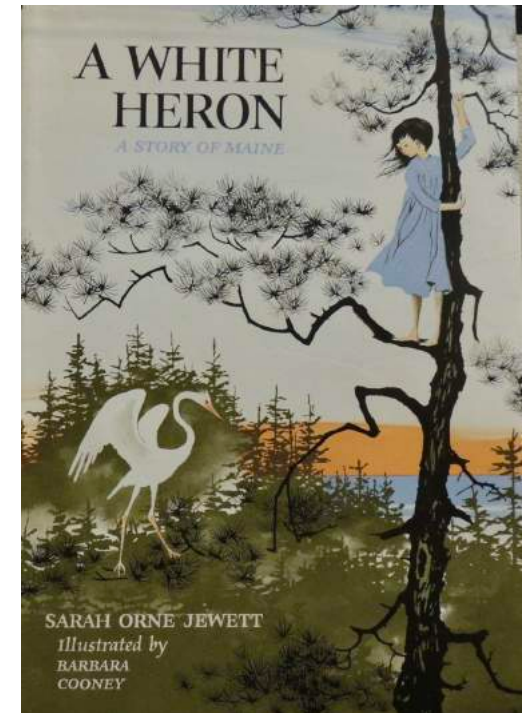
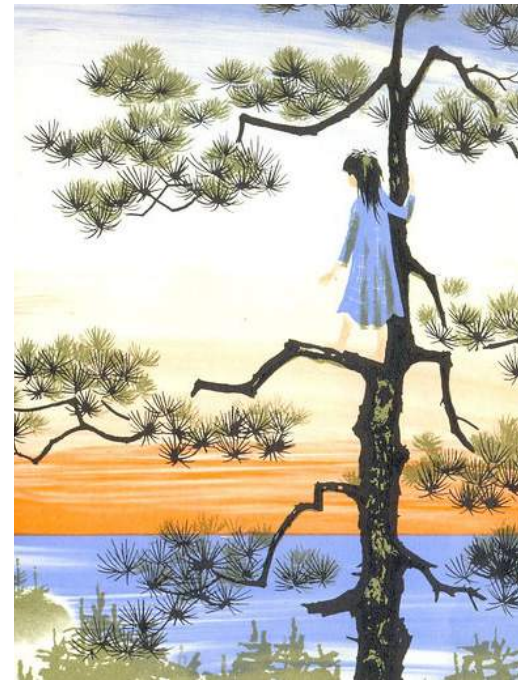
Sarah Orne Jewett's stories have long been treasured by readers for their faithful and tender portrayal of rural Maine and its people. Now Barbara Cooney has edited and illustrated one of the most famous of these country tales with love and understanding that match the author's own.

A White Heron is the story of Sylvy, who lives with her grandmother on a lonely little farm. For a playmate she has only the plodding, plaguey cow. But there never was such a child for straying about out of doors. She roams the woods, the fields and swamps, and knows by heart the birds and twilight moths, the brooks and berry bushes.

These fill her days until the great world, in the person of a cheerful lad with his gun and gamebag, puts out its hand to her. He is searching for the rare white heron, the wild, slender bird that floats and wavers over the marshes and over the woods of hemlock and pine. With him come excitement but also new and troubling thoughts for Sylvy.

Barbara Cooney's illustrations catch the peculiar beauty of the Maine countryside—the shadowed misty woods and the green swamp, the sunny birch-ringed pastures and the ocean. Pictures and story together bring us Sylvy's beautiful world where, one morning at daybreak, she watches the white heron and the sun-dazzled sea and learns that she must remain true to her own world and to her heart.

Story by Sarah Orne Jewett.



LITTLE WOMEN (1955)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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Japanese (Iwanami Shoten)

Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.

It is no secret that Alcott based *Little Women* on her own early life. While her father, the freethinking reformer and abolitionist Bronson Alcott, hobnobbed with such eminent male authors as Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne, Louisa supported herself and her sisters with "woman's work," including sewing, doing laundry, and acting as a domestic servant. But she soon discovered she could make more money writing. *Little Women* brought her lasting fame and fortune, and far from being the "girl's book" her publisher requested, it explores such timeless themes as love and death, war and peace, the conflict between personal ambition and family responsibilities, and the clash of cultures between Europe and America.



THE LITTLE FIR TREE (1954)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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Japanese (Fukuinkan Shoten) *Expired*

Once there was a tree that stood in a field away from the other trees. It longed to be part of the forest—or part of anything at all. After many lonely years, its dream came true. And the little fir tree's life changed forever!

They put golden tinsel on his branches

And golden bells

And green icicles

And silver stars.

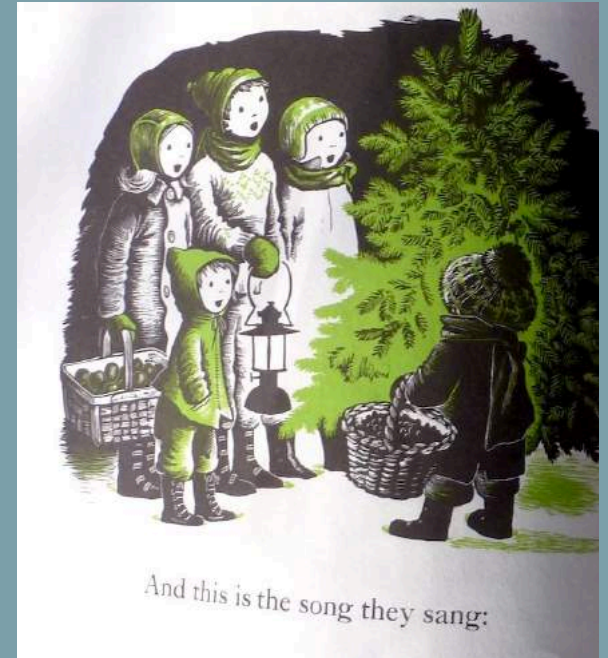
And soon—o shining wonder—the little fir tree was . . .

A Christmas tree

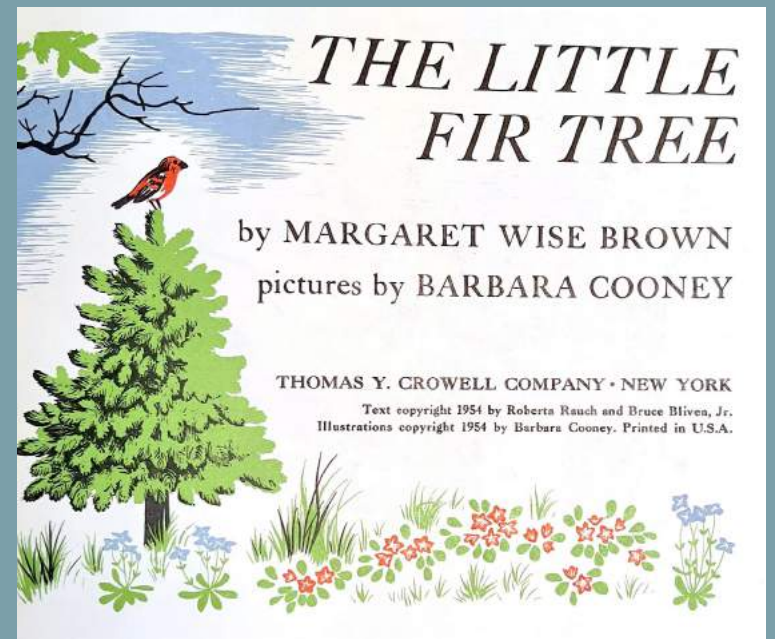
Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with heartwarming text by the author of *Goodnight Moon*.

Story by Margaret Wise Brown (1910-1952).





And this is the song they sang:



CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN (1952)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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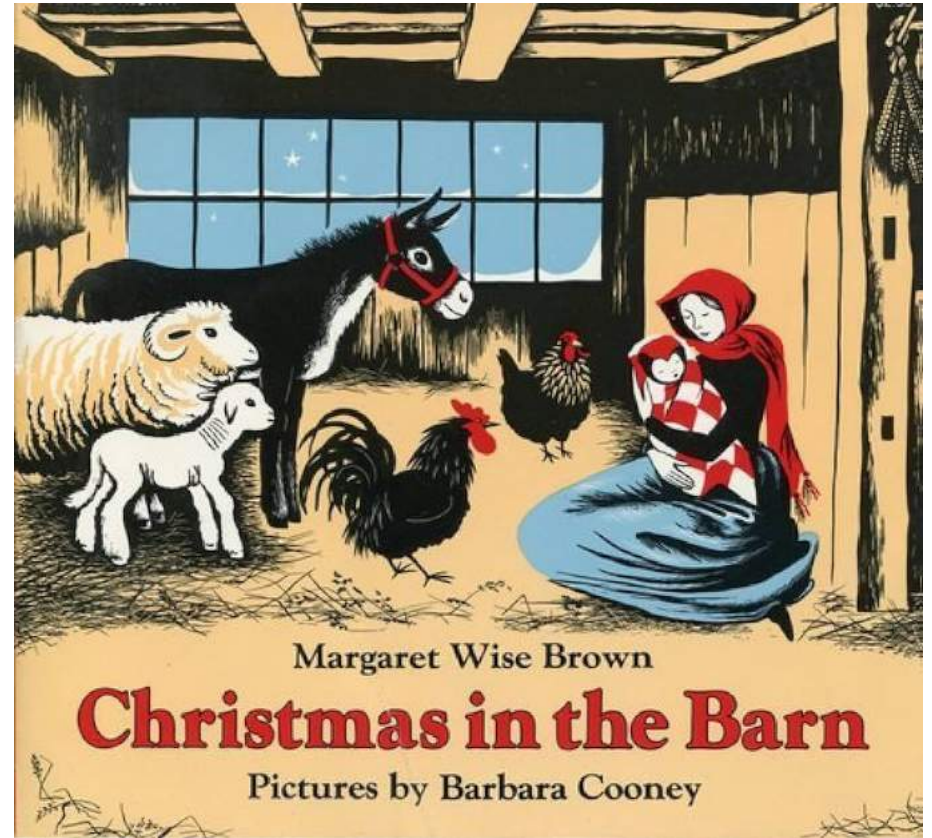
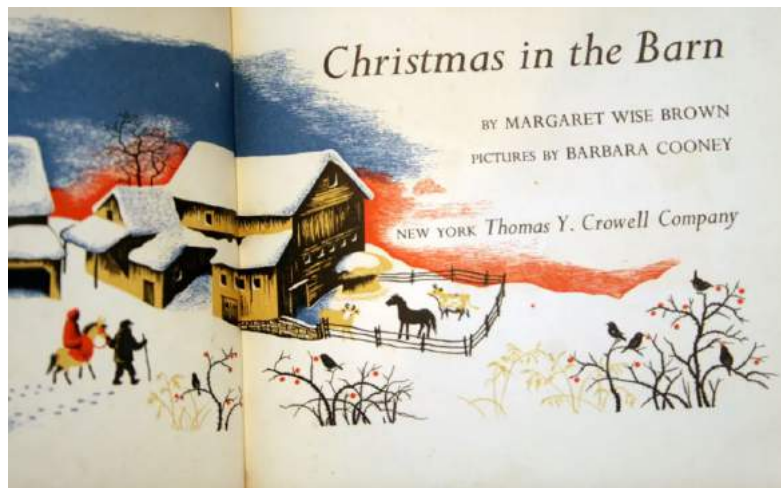
Rights Sold:

Japanese (Kogakusha)

*What child is this
Who is born here
Where the oxen
Stomp and peer...*

When *Christmas in the Barn* was first published in 1952, it demonstrated all of Margaret Wise Brown's mastery at skillfully fashioning a truly childlike interpretation of the Nativity story.

Story by Margaret Wise Brown (1910-1952).

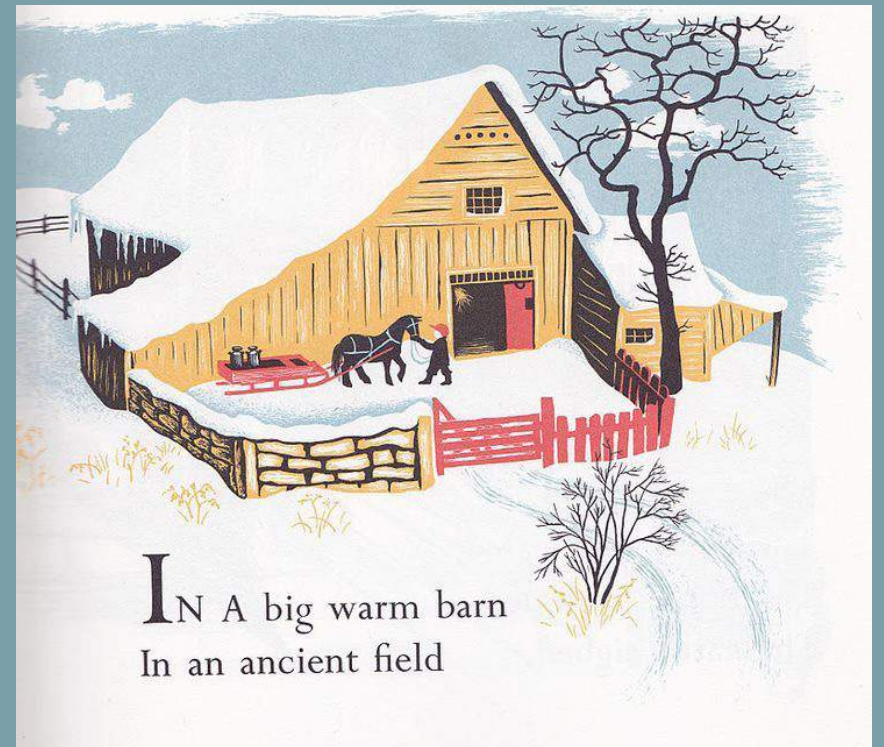




the daylight died
t of the west.
rose
n all stars in the sky.



ved the golden straw,



IN A big warm barn
In an ancient field

KILDEE HOUSE (1949)

Illustrated by Barbara Cooney

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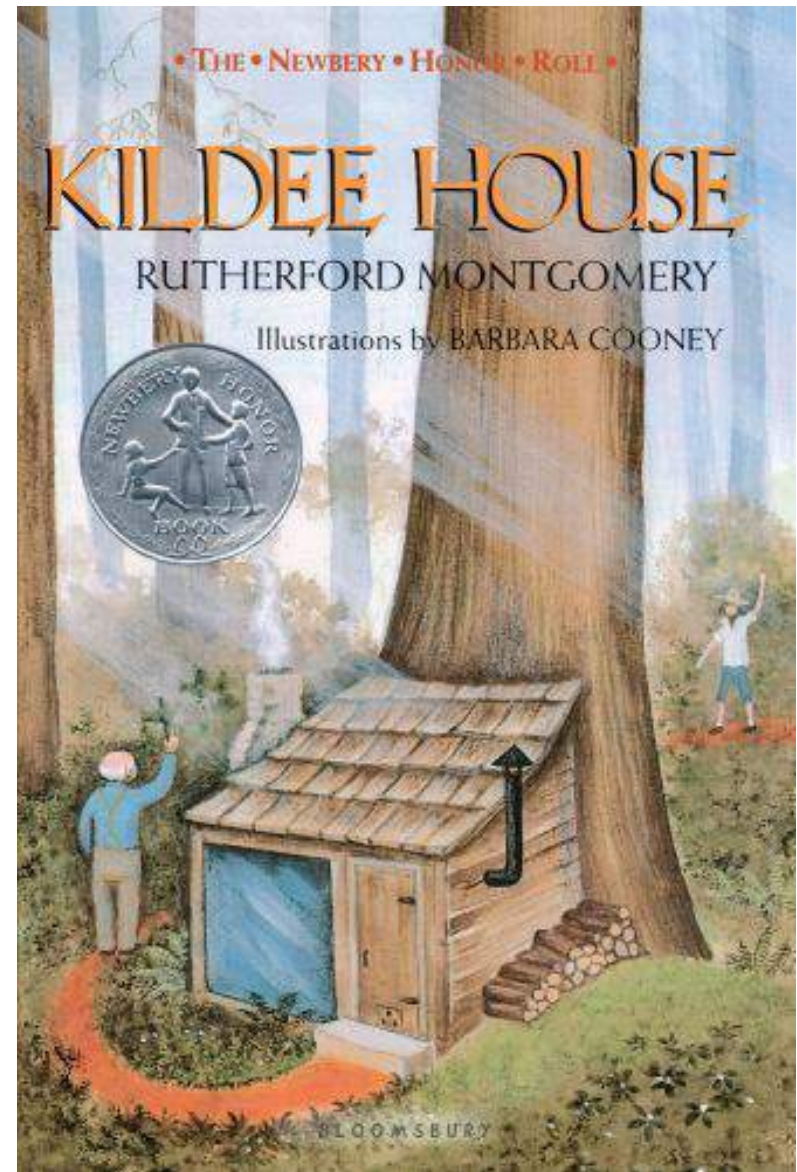
Japanese (Fukuinkan Shoten) *Expired*

An early naturalist and philosopher escapes civilization by building his house among the giant redwoods in this touching, insightful Newberry Honor book.

When Jerome Kildee built his little house against the giant redwood, he had fancied himself a philosopher. He was going to be a hermit—a lazy recluse who didn't have to work or think.

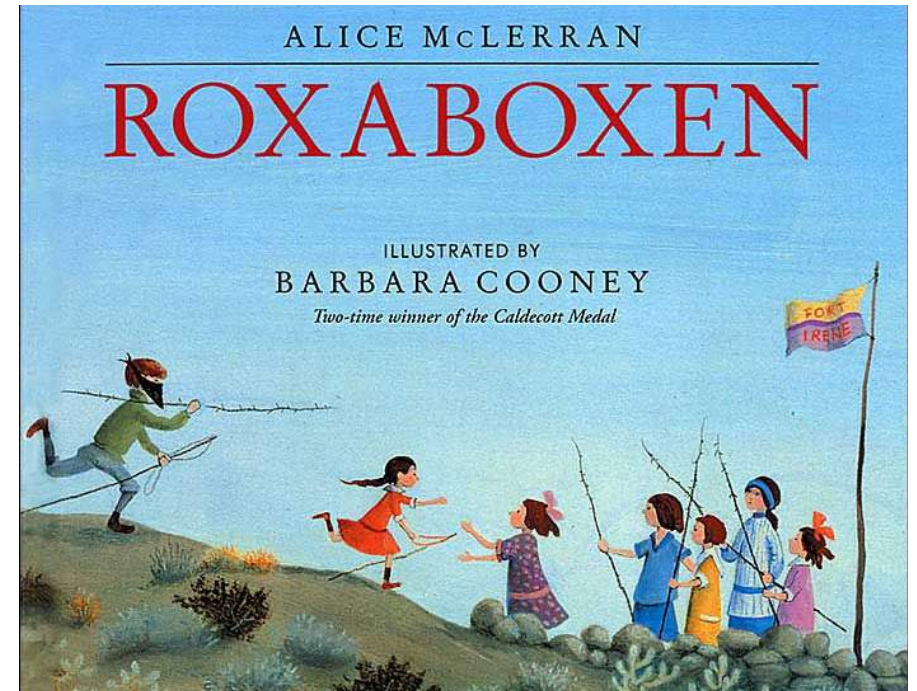
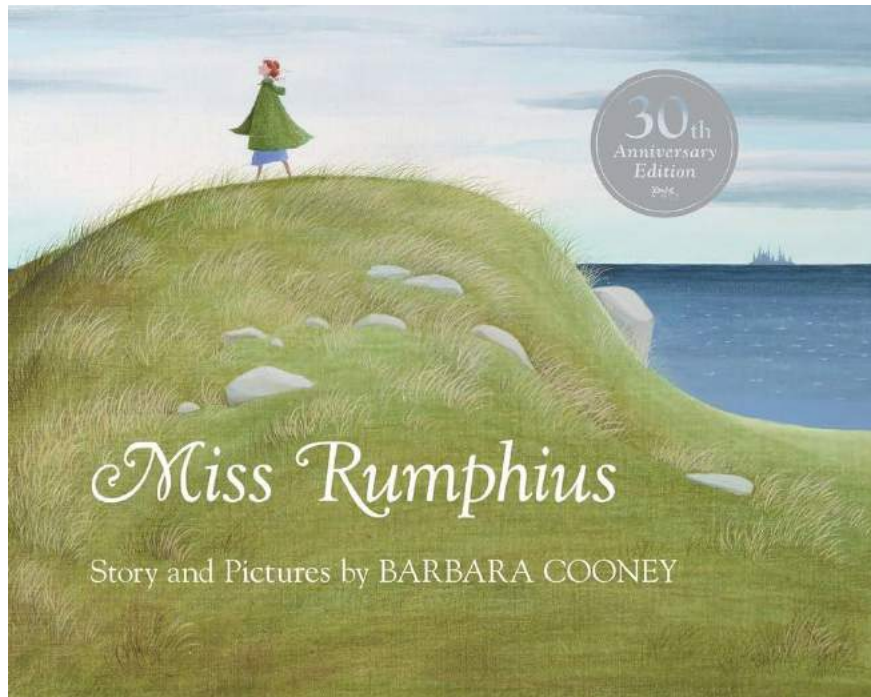
Now here he was facing a crisis that needed immediate attention. At least that's what he would call the dozens of raccoons and spotted skunks that were now living in and under his home, coming and going as they saw fit.

Story by Rutherford George Montgomery.



OTHER BARBARA COONEY CLASSICS

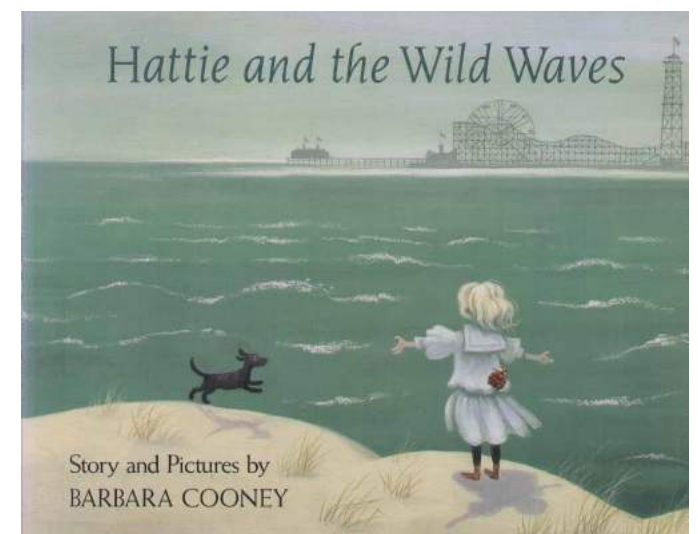
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Rokurin-sha Co., Ltd. (Japanese)
Dowakan Shuppan (Japanese)
Kogakusha (Japanese)
Iwanami Shoten (Japanese)

Kogakusha (Japanese)
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