

Ten Beautiful Things by Molly Beth Griffin

Book Synopsis: What do you like about Iowa? *Ten Beautiful Things* by Molly Beth Griffin and illustrated by Maribel Lechuga tells the story of a young girl moving to Iowa with her grandmother. To help Lily feel better about her move, her grandmother helps her create a list of ten beautiful things found in unexpected places while they travel across the state. From rainstorms to spring mud, Lily and her grandmother find beauty in the ordinary which helps them learn to love their new home in Iowa.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



Connection to Iowa History

Many people, like Lily and her grandmother, have moved to Iowa since statehood. The Iowa Territory was formed on July 4, 1838. Iowa's territory population grew quickly from 10,531 to 96,088 people when Iowa officially became a state only eight years later in 1846. In the early 1900s, new waves of European immigrants grew Iowa's population to 2,231,853 people. The largest groups of immigrants came from Germany, Sweden and Ireland. Iowa's population continues to grow with the arrival of families like Lily and her grandmother. In 2021, Iowa's population was 3,193,079 people calling this state their home.

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading the story, create your very own list of ten beautiful things about Iowa.

Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 **Gather.** Before you begin this activity, gather all the necessary materials.
- 2 **Draw.** On a piece of paper, write the number 1-10 down the left-hand side of the paper. This will be where you write your favorite things in a later step.
- 3 **Think.** This activity is all about thinking of your favorite things about Iowa. Take some time to think about what you enjoy most about the state. For example, think of places, food, weather and people you enjoy.
- 4 **Write.** Once you have brainstormed your ideas, write each favorite thing next to a number on the sheet of paper. Also, be sure to include the reason it is your favorite thing.
- 5 **Color.** Once you have your list of favorite things, be creative and decorate your list. Add color and images to connect with the items on the list. This is all about you and your favorite things.

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Instructions continued on next page

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Instructions continued

- 6 **Connect.** If multiple young historians are creating lists, compare and contrast your favorite things. Explain why these are your favorite things and come up with a combined list of favorite things.
- 7 **Repeat.** This activity can be used for many different topics, not only Iowa. Keep repeating this process to create different lists to celebrate and share all your favorite things.
- 8 **Share!** After you complete this activity, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your list to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with others!
- 9 **Questions to Spark Learning**
 - Initially, Lily didn't want to move to Iowa. Why do you think she didn't want to move with her grandmother?
 - Have you ever moved before? If so, did you feel like Lily? What did you do to make yourself feel better?
 - Why do you think Lily's grandmother made her come up with a list of ten beautiful things?