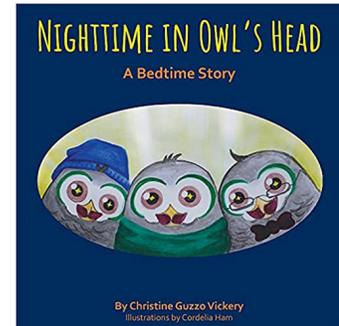


Nighttime in Owl's Head by Christine Guzzo Vickery

Book Synopsis: *Nighttime in Owl's Head* by Christine Guzzo Vickery tells the story of a barred owl living in the historic and charming Owl's Head neighborhood in Des Moines, Iowa. Persis, an owl, explores the historic neighborhood while babysitting three owlets. Along their journey during a dark October evening, they meet many interesting characters that call the neighborhood their home.



Connection to Iowa History

The tree-lined Des Moines neighborhood of Owl's Head was first laid out by developers in 1888. Originally starting as a streetcar suburb, due to residents riding the streetcar between their home and the downtown area, the city of Des Moines quickly grew and expanded around the area. The neighborhood features many historic large homes which were built between 1905-1915. This includes the former Iowa Governor's mansion which served as the official residence of the governor from 1944-1976.

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading the story, design and create your own handmade paper plate owl.

Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 Color.** Using a color marker, completely color two paper plates the color of dark brown. Set aside to dry.
- 2 Cut.** Using scissors, carefully cut the following shapes out of construction paper. If you do not have construction paper, color printer paper using color markers.
 - Yellow Paper - Cut two large circles to serve as the outer eye.
 - White Paper - Cut two medium size circles to serve as the inner eye.
 - Black Paper - Cut one triangle shape to serve as the beak.
- 3 Glue.** Begin to create an eye for the owl. Glue the white circle to the center of the yellow circle. Then glue the black circle to the center of the white circle. This should look like an eye. Repeat this step to create the second eye. Set aside to dry.
- 4 Wings.** Using scissors, cut one of the paper plates in half. Attach each half of the cut plate to opposite side of the backside of the full sized paper plate. This will create the wings of the owl.
- 5 Connect.** Glue both the eyes to the top half on the front of the full paper plate. Glue and place the orange triangle directly below the eyes.
- 6 Display.** Want to create an entire flock of owls? Create multiple owls and hang them from a string to decorate for the spooky season.

Materials

- Paper Plates
- Construction Paper or Printer Paper
- Color Markers
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions continued on next page

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Instructions continued

7 Share. After you complete your owls, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with others!

8 Questions to Spark Learning

- What do you like most about the neighborhood where you live?
- If you were to write a book about your neighborhood, what people or locations would you want to include? Why?
- The Owl's Head neighborhood is the location of the previous governor's mansion. If you were governor, what would you want the governor's mansion to look like? Why?