



Dear Boockworms (soon-to-be-REACHers),

Plot Twist! Just like the caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, our beloved Boockworm is undergoing a meaningful metamorphosis too. Say farewell to Boockworm and give a warm welcome to REACH – a dynamic new identity that's all about spreading laughter and literacy to billions!

REACH isn't just a name change; it's a bold, new mission to connect, engage, and inspire through the enchanting world of reading. It's about reaching out to those who feel lonely, bridging gaps between generations and communities, and creating meaningful connections through the magic of stories.

This final Boockworm Newsletter marks the end of an era, but fear not! In March, you'll receive the very first *REACH Out & Read Together Guide*, filled with engaging ideas and reading treasures!

I'm pumped to flip to this new chapter with you, but keep reading to meet the vibrant cast of characters who will help you understand what REACH is all about and why it can't wait another nanosecond.

Get ready to soar to new literary - and happiness- heights with REACH!

Excitedly yours,

Donna B.



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What is REACH?

You won't believe this story.

Things were quiet in my writing office. I was writing *No Bones About It*, the third book in the *Claw & Order: Fairy Goose Unit* series. That is, until Detective Clawed came crashing into my office.

"Why," he asked, "is third grade so important to a kid's success in life? Is it true? Does their third-grade reading matter?"

Clawed McDiddle and Allie O'Dumpling are the main characters in *The Pignapping*, the first book of the *Claw & Order: Fairy Goose Unit* series. Clawed gets, um, excited when there's a mystery to be solved.



"Experts tell us it's true, Clawed," I confirmed. "Reading at grade level by third grade is important because that's when kids switch from learning to read to reading to learn."

"Great gooseberries! You mean we must get them reading on level by third grade? How do we do that? I must get to the bottom of this. Where's Allie?"

"Calm down, Clawed," Allie said running in behind him. "We already have a clue. We know this: if kids think something is fun, they want to keep doing it! That's not a mystery."

“So, if we make reading fun, kids will want to read more? And if they read more, they'll get better at reading!” he reasoned.

“Great work, Fairy Goose Detectives,” I told them. “You solved the book case! That’s exactly why I’m writing fun and funny books kids will want to read. They’ll think they’re just having fun. We’ll know it’s so much more than that.”

“But wait! There’s another problem,” the Fairy Goose Mother said.

“Ducktective Jack B. Quack and Hickety Pickety McChickety had just cracked the case of the Stolen, Golden Goose Eggs when we received a call about a new mystery. It seems that one out of every two adults in the U.S. is lonely. And that’s not all. People of all ages are feeling the effects of loneliness. The U. S. surgeon general says it’s an epidemic and it’s affecting people’s health. It’s worse than smoking fifteen cigarettes a day!”



“Oh, that’s terrible! But how is that a mystery?” I asked.

“The mystery is how do we solve this problem!” The Fairy Goose Mother said, bopping me on the head with her wand. Then it hit me. An idea, not the wand.

“I think I have an idea!” I said, and every one of my book characters crowded around me.



“A new idea?” Purcella squealed to Ella Bella Bovine. “Maybe we’re finally getting a sequel!”

“No way!” Kinzie said. “It’s my turn for another book. Pretty please-y, cherry freezie? I still have so many more Kinventions to share!”



“Your new story is coming soon,” I promised Kinzie. “But this idea can’t wait. What if there was something we could do that would reduce all these risks, and the side effects of this remedy were only positive?”



“Will it bring people closer together and make them feel more joy?” Jack B. Quack asked.

“It sure will,” I said.

“But can it improve memory, expand vocabulary, develop critical thinking, and result in a greater likelihood of pursuing higher education, a better job and higher income in adulthood?” questioned Hickety. Boy she is a saucy duck.

“Yes, it can,” I said.

“What is this magic then?” the Fairy Goose mother asked.

“Reading can bring them together!” I said. “We’ll call it the REACH (Reading Establishes A Connection Home) initiative. It’s simple. Generations will read together across the room or across the miles. Through the REACH initiative, we’ll bring laughter and literacy to billions of people!”



“I want to help!” A character I hadn’t yet met burst through the door. He appeared to be a brand-new, rookie Fairy Goose Land detective pup.

“Perrito Paws reporting for duty!” he said. I didn’t know his story, but I was sure he’d soon dictate it to me.

“Everyone can help!” I told him. “I’ll feature one book each month in the *REACH Out & Read Together* guide where I’ll include discussion questions, recommended activities and fun ideas so there is always something fresh and new to talk about. Of course, I’ll make them for my books, but I’ll also feature other authors’ books too! And everyone can submit ideas for featured books, and I’ll do my best to curate fun ideas to go along with them. I’ll also be looking for speaking opportunities in the community to spread REACH as far as it can, well, reach. March 19 is International Read to Me Day. That’s the perfect day to launch this initiative! That’s not too far off. I better get planning!”

Suddenly, the Fairy Goose Mother eyes sparkled with an idea.

“Hey...You out there! Yes...YOU reading this page. YOU can help too! If we all do our part, we can really REACH each lonely person, each struggling person, and make a BIG difference. So, who do you know who would benefit from REACH?”



www.DonnaBoock.com/Reach

See you next month!

Donna B.

