

For Parents



CELEBRATING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF

*The*  
**KISSING HAND**



by Audrey Penn

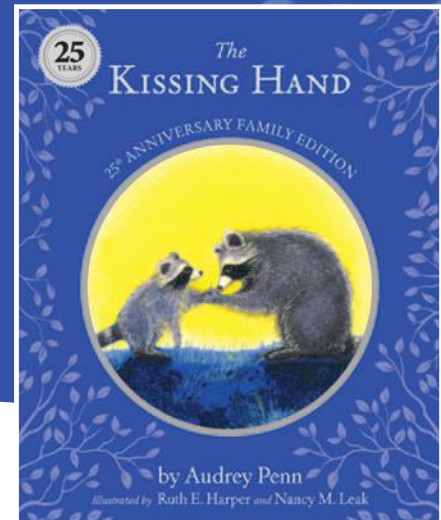
*Illustrated by* Ruth E. Harper *and* Nancy M. Leak

**ACTIVITY KIT**

# The Kissing Hand

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FAMILY EDITION

By Audrey Penn



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Countless children have been introduced to Chester Raccoon through ***The Kissing Hand*** and its sequels. With over 6 million copies sold, Audrey Penn firmly showed that kids need characters with whom they can share their troubles. Chester's fear of venturing to school for the first time has touched the lives of countless children and families during times of transition and distress.

Teachers, librarians, and caregivers have used Chester's story to bring calm to the anxious children in their care on the first days of school, but ***The Kissing Hand*** can relate to so many more situations in a child's life.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Audrey Penn** is the author of the perennial bestseller, ***The Kissing Hand***, and the other books in this series. She takes her one-woman educational program, The Writing Penn, into schools, libraries, and children's hospitals, where she shapes and refines her story ideas in partnership with kids. A resident of Durham, NC, she is a sought-after conference speaker for groups of teachers and other professionals who work with children. To learn more about Audrey Penn, please visit [www.audreypenn.com](http://www.audreypenn.com).

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

### **Ruth E. Harper, illustrator**

Ruth Harper is a self-taught artist from England. The third of seven children, she lived in Israel and Cyprus before coming to America at the age of sixteen. In addition to ***The Kissing Hand***, Ruth also illustrated ***Sassafras*** by Audrey Penn. She currently lives in Iowa with her husband, two cats, and a dog.

### **Nancy M. Leak, illustrator**

Maryland artist Nancy Leak is a specialist in printmaking. She works and exhibits with a group of seven women called Printmakers Plus, as well as with other local and national organizations. Her hand-pulled original etchings, many of them miniatures, have won recognition all over the United States.



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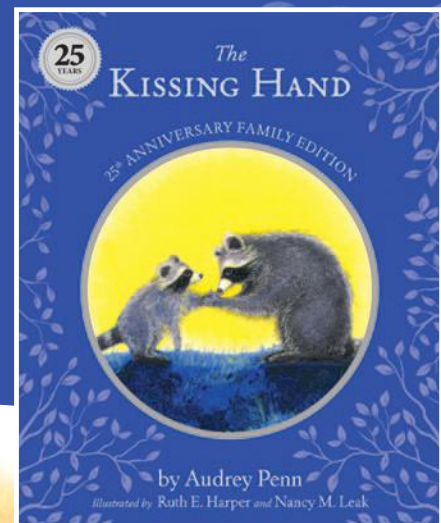
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## STORY BEHIND THE BOOK

When my children were small, we used to go to a local park where there was a choo-choo train to ride. One day, when riding with them on the train, the train suddenly stopped and the conductor got out and walked around the front and seemed to be trying to shoo something away. We all assumed it was a deer. After no success, he went to get a park ranger. I got out of our seat and walked around the front of the train to see what was up there, and what was up there was a huge mother raccoon and her tiny cub. She was taking the cub's paw and rubbing her nose on it and then putting it on her cub's face. And the mother raccoon did that several times. When the ranger came back, I asked him about it. He said that raccoons do that to put their scent on the cub's hand, so that when the raccoon must leave the cub, for food or whatever, the cub can put its hand to its face, smell the mother, and feel comforted.

At the time, my daughter Stefanie, who was born deaf, needed to start school but was very scared of being separated from me. Because of her disability, she had always been very clingy. I told her that we were going to do what the raccoon did, and I kissed her hand and told her that when she felt scared, she could put her hand to her face and feel my kiss. When I went to pick her up from school that first day, the teacher told me that Stefanie had spent the entire morning with her hand plastered to her cheek. And I just thought, well, if it worked for the raccoon and it worked for my daughter, then it could work for other kids. So I wrote THE KISSING HAND.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Audrey Penn'.



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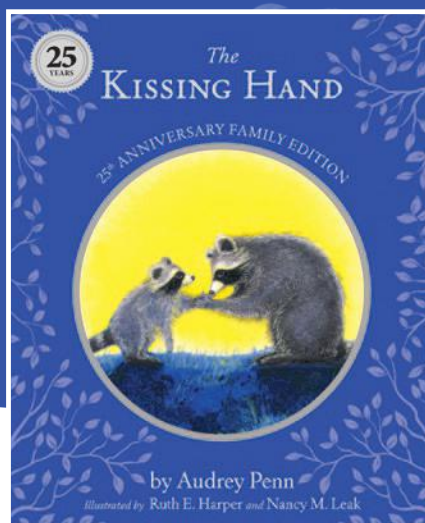
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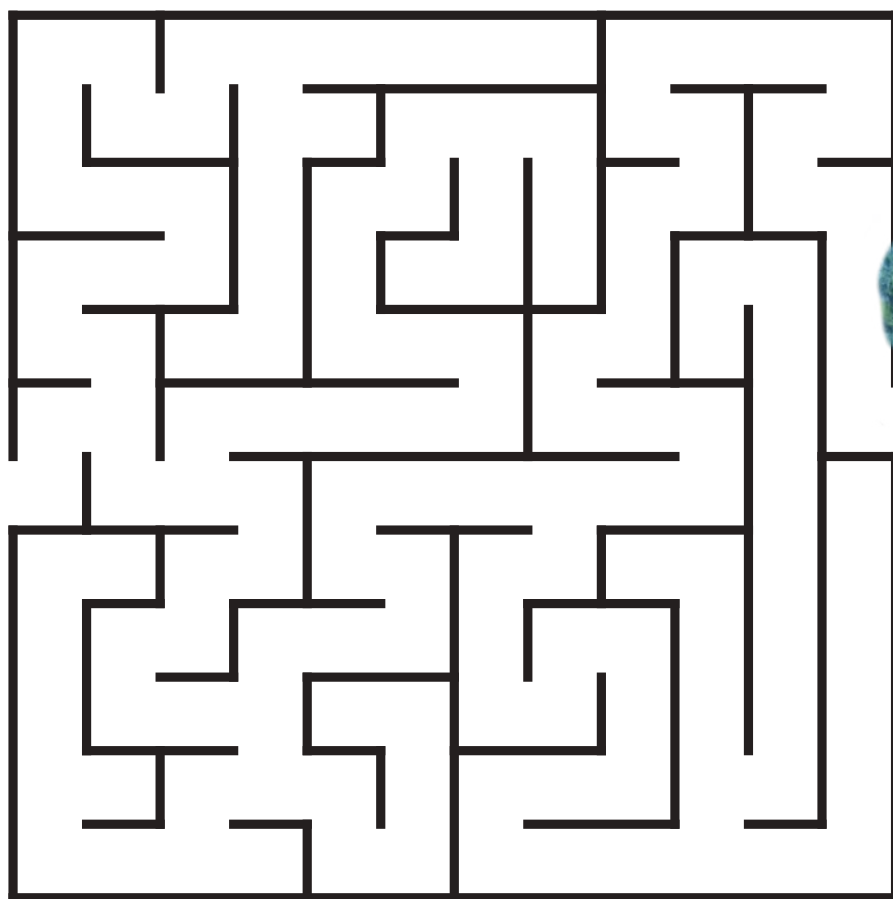
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HELP CHESTER GET TO SCHOOL



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*The*  
**KISSING HAND**  
ACTIVITY

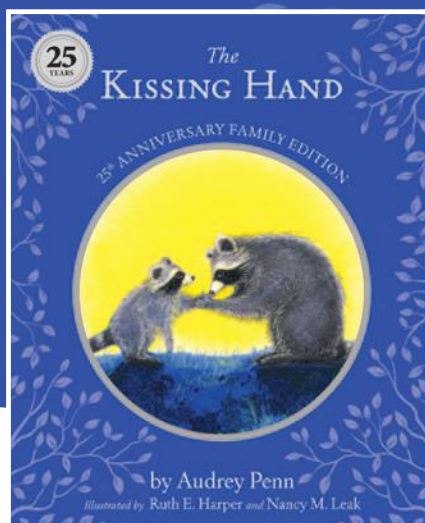
Cut out the pattern below. Glue it on a paper plate or piece of construction paper. Decorate and color it. Write "I Love You" around it. Give it to someone you love with a Kissing Hand.



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Color Chester Raccoon!



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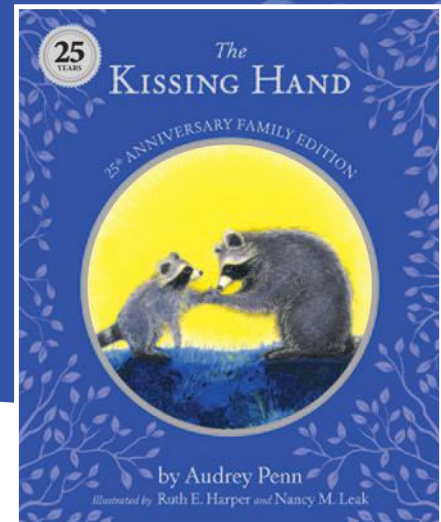
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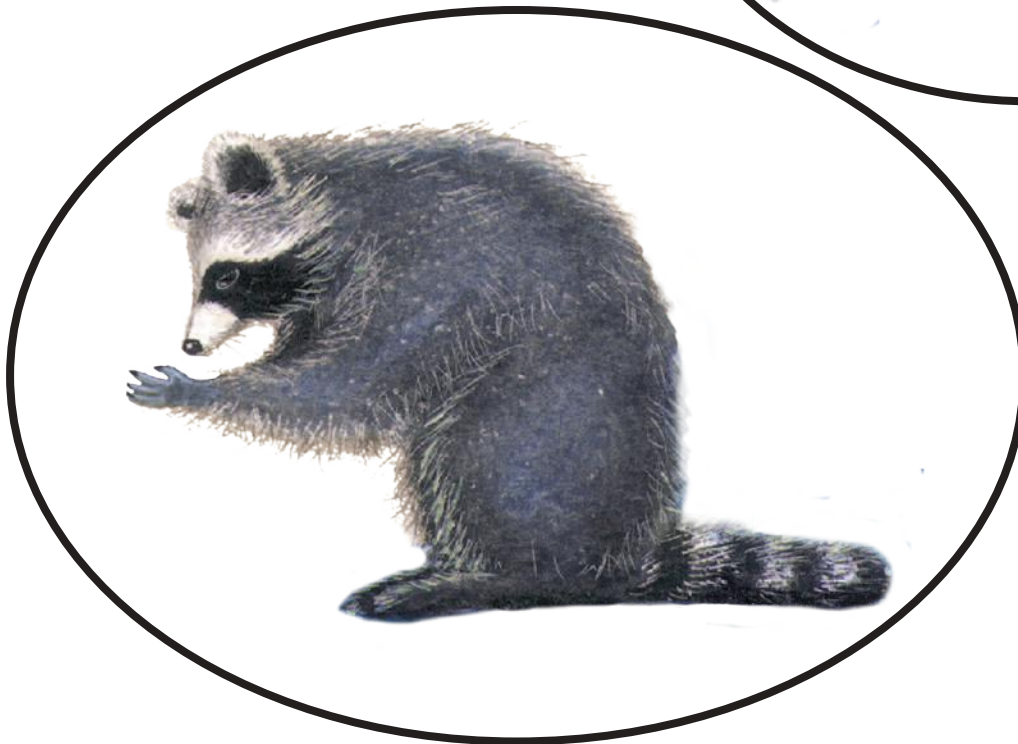
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## KISSING HAND PUPPETS

Print this page and cut out AROUND Chester and his mother. Make them into puppets by taping them onto a popsicle stick, straw, or chopstick. Act out the story. How do you feel when your parents leave you at school or other places? Does a kissing hand make you feel better? What else feels good? Tell your grown-ups what it is like for you—they like to know!



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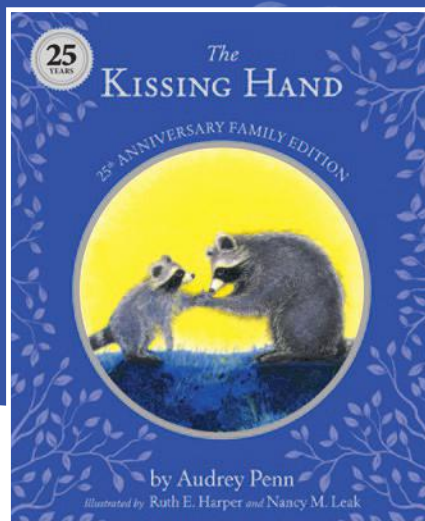




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## WRITE A LETTER TO CHESTER

Chester was brave going to school for the first time even though he was scared. With the help of Mrs. Raccoon and a Kissing Hand, he made it through. Write a letter to the author of THE KISSING HAND and share how you and your family have used Kissing Hands in different situations to be strong and share your love.

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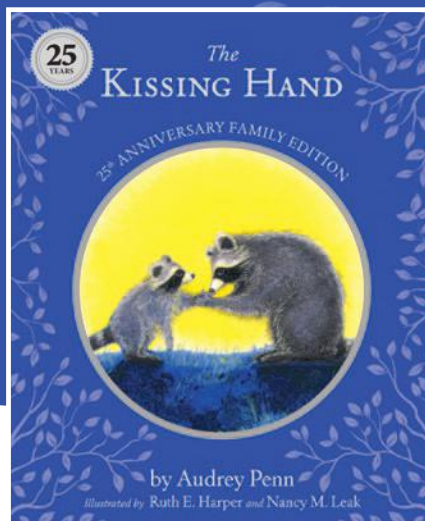
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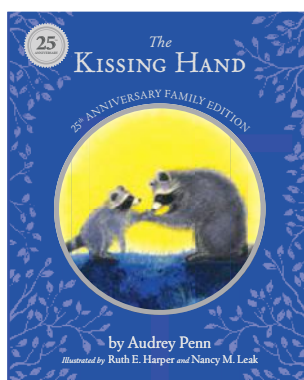
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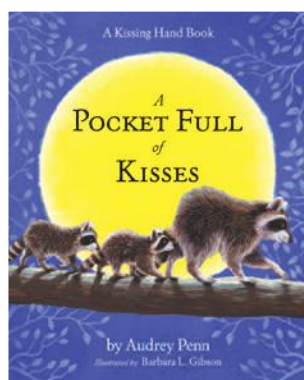
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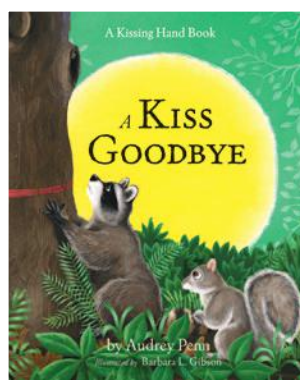
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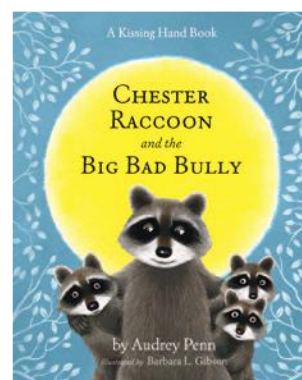
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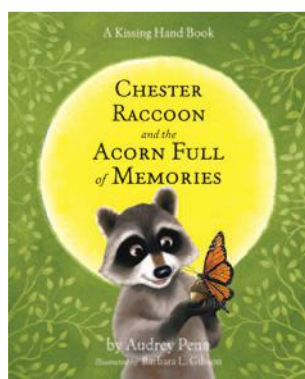
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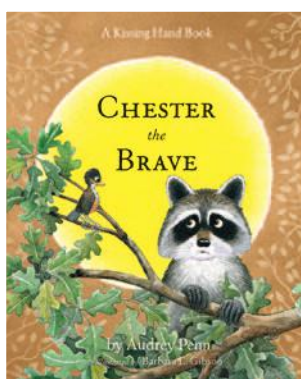
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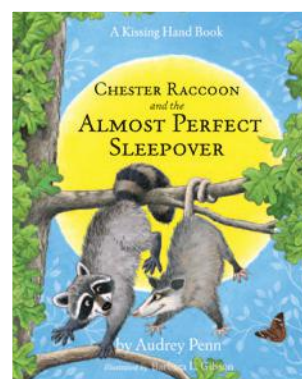
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