

Raj the Bookstore Tiger

A Story Hour Kit for Bookstores,
Libraries, and Classrooms

Tiger Hats!

Tigerish Words!

Tyger Poems!



This Story Hour Kit is designed to complement a reading of the picture book *Raj the Bookstore Tiger* by Kathleen T. Pelley, illustrated by Paige Keiser, and published by Charlesbridge Publishers.

Raj the Bookstore Tiger Story Hour Kit

About the Kit

This Story Hour Kit contains a tiger dress-up craft, a simple game of "tigerish" (or bully-free words), a William Blake take-away poem, and a story hour poster to complement a reading of the picture book **Raj the Bookstore Tiger** by Kathleen T. Pelley.

This Story Hour kit was created by Curious City. For many other book-based kinetic event and activity kits, visit www.CuriousCity.net. All the images in this kit were created by Paige Keiser and used by permission of Charlesbridge Publishing. For feedback on the kit, contact kirsten@curiouscity.net.



About the Book

Raj the Bookstore Tiger
By Kathleen T. Pelley
Illustrated by Paige Keiser
Charlesbridge Publishing
Hardcover, \$15.95

Being a bookstore tiger is hard work. There's much patrolling, and a lot of sitting in laps at story hour, and then there's sleeping in the window display. But Raj is up to the task. He is fierce and proud—until Snowball comes along. The new cat in the bookstore informs Raj that he's just a marmalade kitty-cat. Times get tough, then, for the bookstore tiger. But bookstore and Raj owner Felicity, with the help of poet William Blake, knows just how to fix things.

About the Author

Kathleen T. Pelley grew up in Scotland, where she fell in love with words by listening to the *BBC Children's Story Hour* on the radio. Like Raj, she believes that words are magic and have the power to make us laugh and cry—they can even make us feel bold as a tiger! Kathleen has put her word magic to good use in books such as **The Giant King**, **Inventor McGregor** (Bank Street Best Book and Colorado Book Award winner), and her latest, **Magnus Maximus, A Marvelous Measurer** (Bank Street Best Book). Kathleen lives in Colorado, but you can visit her at www.KathleenPelley.com.

About the Illustrator

Paige Keiser based Raj on several cats she owned as a child. She is the illustrator of two other picture books, **Baby Moose Visits** by Linda Glaser and **The Little Green Pea** by Alison Barber. Paige lives and works in Virginia. To see her illustrations, visit her at www.PaigeKeiser.com.

About Kathleen Pelley's School and Library Visits

Kathleen T. Pelley is a highly sought after speaker for schools, libraries, and literacy events. To learn more about her school visits and speaking engagements or to watch some of her online essays, visit www.KathleenPelley.com.

Free Poster

Bookstores and libraries can receive a FREE permanent 11" x 17" story hour announcement poster (featuring the story hour illustration from **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**) by visiting the contact page at www.KathleenPelley.com.

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Raj the Bookstore Tiger Story Hour Kit

Turning Readers Into Tigers: A Dress Up Craft

Raj, an ordinary tabby cat, is transformed into a tiger by his owner's praise. You can transform your story hour children into tigers by making this simple tiger hat and applying some eye liner whiskers. This is a great activity to fill the time before story hour as children trickle in for your read aloud of **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**.

What You Might Gather:

- ___ A copy of **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**
- ___ Cardstock to print on
- ___ Crayons (make sure you have several sets so you can have several orange and black crayons)
- ___ Stapler
- ___ 2 sticks of black or brown eyeliner (or face paints)
- ___ Anti-bacterial wipes
- ___ Tape

What You Might Do to Prepare:

- ___ Print or reproduce the Raj Tiger Hat sheet onto cardstock. You should print enough to have 2 triangles and 2 strips for each child.
- ___ Cut out the triangles and strips.

What You Might Do at Story Hour:

Invite the story hour children to your craft table by saying something like, "Today we are going to read about a cat name Raj who was turned into a tiger. Do you want to be turned into a tiger for the day?"

___ Invite the children to color two strips and two triangles with "tiger colors." They do not, of course, need to be orange and white or black and white, as imaginary tigers can be all colors. Let the children know that the triangles are their "tiger ears."

___ When all their pieces are colored, staple the strips in a circle the right circumference to sit on a child's head above their ears. Staple the triangles on the front of the circle to make the ears. (Best to have the smooth side of the staple on the outside of the circle/hat. If you are worried about the staples catching on hair, simply put a little piece of tape on the backside of the staple.)

___ Invite children to get whiskers and a tiger nose. You can do this simply with the light touch of an eye liner or face paint sticks. Have more than one stick so other adults can help you. Have anti-bacterial wipes handy to wipe the tip of the applicator between children.

___ With your children now dressed as tigers, you can include them in the reading of **Raj, the Bookstore Tiger**. It would be fun to have them repeat the, "I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger!" line with you.



Raj the Bookstore Tiger Story Hour Kit

Talking Tiger: A Simple Game About the Power of Words

Raj the Bookstore Tiger is about many things, but certainly about the power of words. Words can make us feel good about ourselves and can make us feel bad, too. Following your read aloud, this activity can help your story hour children identify the words and phrases that make Raj real "tigerish" and the ones that make him feel like "just a plain old kitty-cat."

You will hang up two of the enclosed posters, one of a happy Raj and one of a sad Raj, to show readers visually how Raj feels. You will then give your story hour children phrases from the book on cards. After some discussion about how these phrases would make Raj feel, the children can approach the poster and match the positive and negative words and phrases to the positive and negative images of Raj.

What You Might Gather:

- ___ A copy of *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*
- ___ Scissors
- ___ Double-sided tape

What You Might Do to Prepare:

- ___ Print the Raj the Tiger and Raj the Plain Old Kitty-Cat poster.
- ___ Hang the posters close to where you read aloud.
- ___ Print out the Tigerish Words and cut them out (you should have at least one phrase per story hour child).
- ___ Put a strip of double-sided tape on the back of the phrase card.
- ___ Mark in your book where these phrases are used. Depending on the age of the children, you might need to refer back to the scene where the phrase is used to help them with context.

What You Might Do at Story Hour:

- ___ Read *Raj the Bookstore Tiger* aloud.
- ___ Talk with your story hour children about when Raj was happy and when he was sad. You might prompt the children by asking what Felicity called Raj that made him proud and what Snowball said that made Raj sad and confused. Explain that words have the power to make us proud as a tiger or as sad as a plain old kitty-cat.
- ___ Select a phrase and read it aloud. Ask children if they think this would make Raj happy (show the Raj the Tiger poster) or sad (show the Plain Old Kitty-Cat poster).
- ___ Once the group has decided, ask a child to stick the phrase next to the right poster.
- ___ If each child is at story hour with an adult, consider having the child/adult pair complete the matching game together.



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Raj the Bookstore Tiger Story Hour Kit

Tyger, Tyger: A Take Away Poem

What restored Raj's tigerness, of course, was a poem--William Blake's *Tyger, Tyger* poem, to be exact. The final page of this kit has a copy of the poem to reproduce for all of your story hour children.

You might follow up your "Talking Tiger" activity with a further conversation about the power of words (suggested points below). This can be followed by the distribution of an excerpt from Blake's memorable poem.

We learned that words had the power to make Raj proud and happy or confused and sad. Words have the power to make us feel things, too.

Many, many words and phrases can come together to create a poem or a book (like **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**). A poem or a book can make us feel many, many things--excitement, sadness, or curiosity. Does anyone remember the poem that Felicity read to Raj in this book? It was a poem by William Blake called *Tyger, Tyger*.

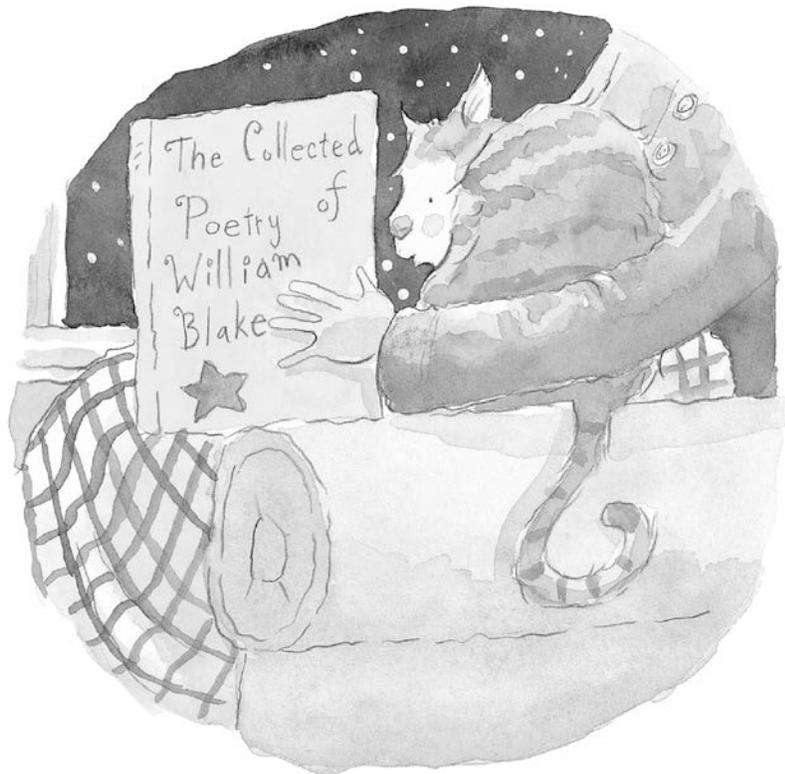
This poem restored Raj's tigerness and made him bold and happy again. Felicity and Raj have asked me to give you a copy of that poem. You can read the poem whenever you are feeling sad and need to reminded of this "tigerness" just like Raj the Bookstore Tiger.

What You Might Gather:

- ___ A copy of **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**
- ___ Scissors

What You Might Do to Prepare:

- ___ Print the *Tyger, Tyger* poem sheet and cut one out for each child.



Are you feeling tigerish?

*Do you like words
and poems?*



Then come to the...

Tiger Story Hour

We will be reading **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**
and turning readers into tigers!

Location:



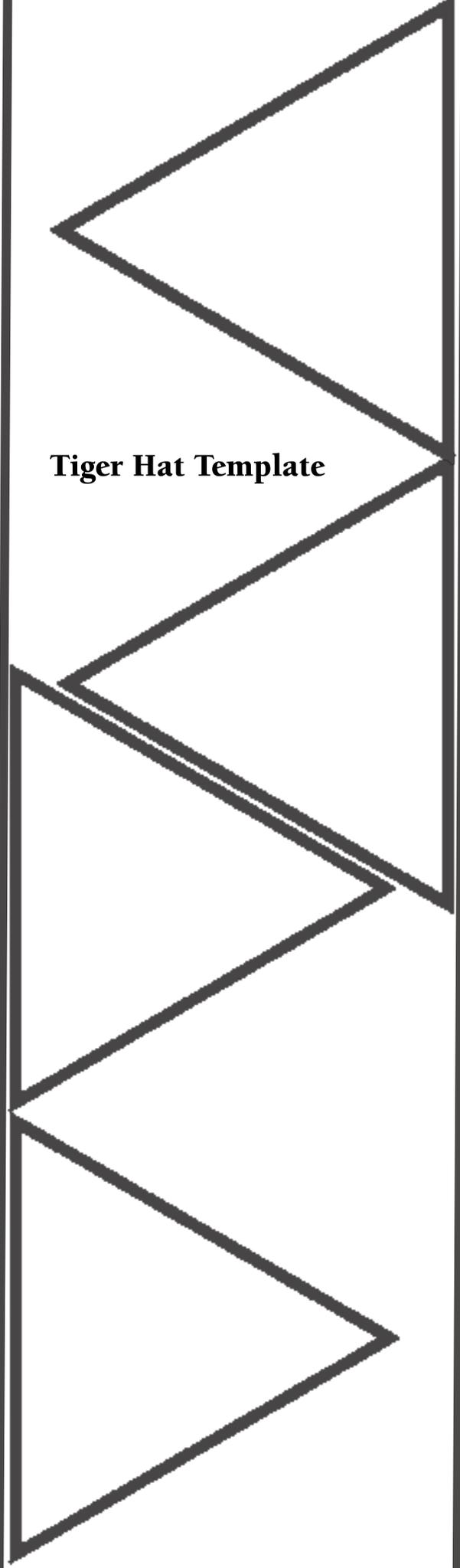
Day:

Time:

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I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! -Raj the Bookstore Tiger

I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! -Raj the Bookstore Tiger



Tiger Hat Template

I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! -Raj the Bookstore Tiger

I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! I'm a tiger! -Raj the Bookstore Tiger

Tigerish Words

gorgeous golden coat

special guest

purring loudly

back to your old self

mean and cranky

joke tiger

hissed and scowled

muddy brown splotches

Tigerish Words

beautiful chocolate stripes

charmed as a fairy tale

hearty meow

basking in the window

plain old kitty-cat

jibes and stings

purr vanished

huddled hump

Raj the Tiger

Can you match this picture with the words that would make Raj feel as happy and proud as a tiger?



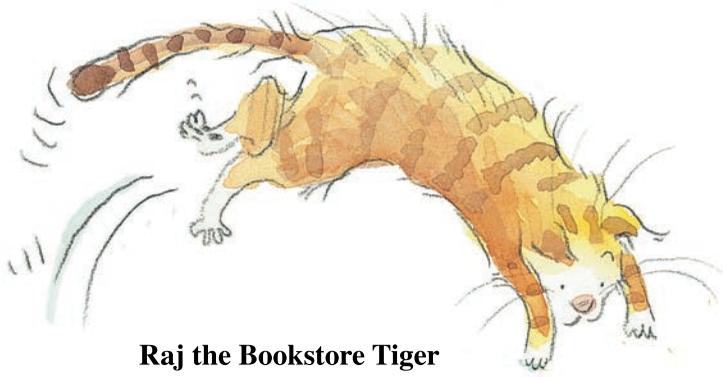
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Raj the Plain Old Kitty-Cat

Can you match this picture with words that would make Raj feel sad and confused like he was just a plain old kitty-cat and not a tiger after all?



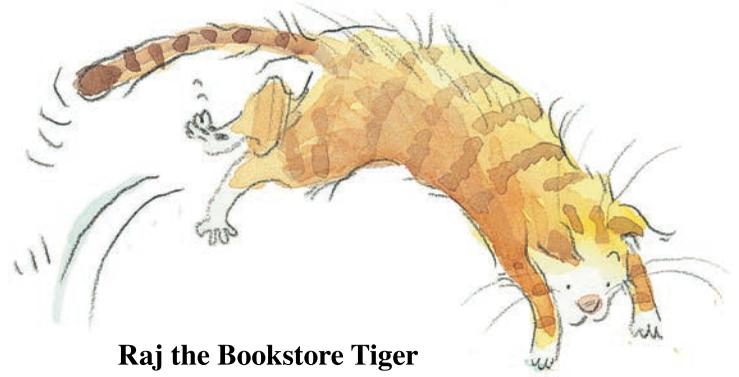
From the picture book *Raj the Bookstore Tiger* by Kathleen T. Pelley, illustrated by Paige Keiser, and published by Charlesbridge Publishers.



Raj the Bookstore Tiger
would like to share his
favorite poem with you ...

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright,
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

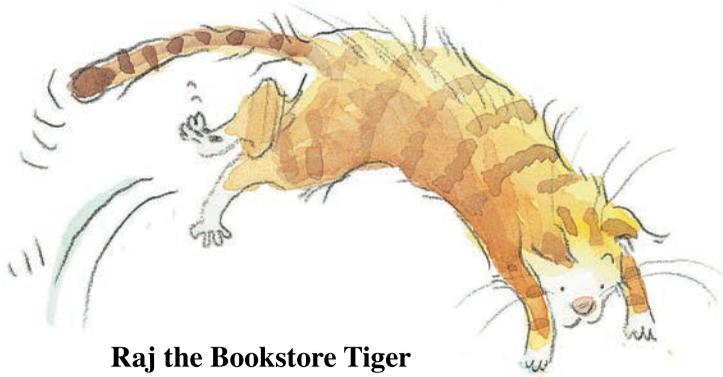
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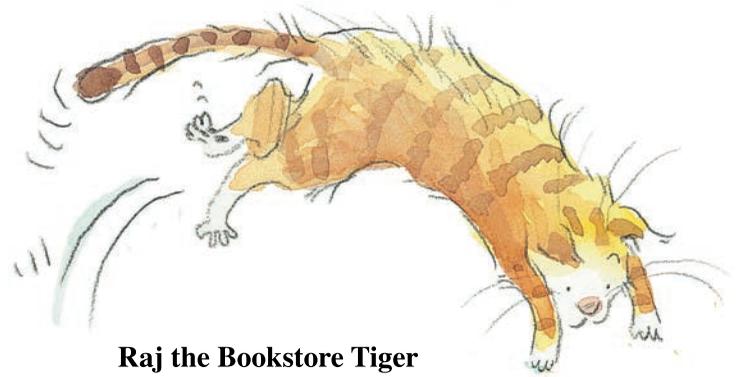
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