## Handmade by Lois Ehlert: Art for Children's Books

### Summary

Although limited in access to art supplies in her earlier life, Lois Ehlert's highly original books continue to stretch the limits of traditional bookmaking through vivid colors, unique book shapes, intricate page cuts, and photographed collages. Born November 9, 1934, in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Ehlert grew up in a home where everyone seemed to be making something. Ehlert graduated from the Layton School of Art in 1957 and received a B.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1959. Initially providing illustrations for the books of others, Ehlert began writing her own material to accompany her artwork in the mid-1980s. She has created numerous children's books on natural subjects such as birds, flowers, weather, and butterflies as well as retellings of folk tales, alphabet and number books. Her prolific work has earned her the 1989 Caldecott Honor Award for Color Zoo, a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year for Snowballs (1995), Booklist Editors' Choice for Cuckoo/Cucú: A Mexican Folktale/Un cuento folklórico mexicano (1997), the IRA Teachers' Choice and NCTE Notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts for Feathers for Lunch (1990), and the American Library Association Notable Children's Book and Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Award for Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (1989). Ms. Ehlert currently resides in Milkwaukee Wisconsin, where she works out of her home studio.

### **Family and Educational Background**

Born during the Great Depression in a small town in the American Midwest, Lois Ehlert could not indulge her creative bent with a visit to a local art store. However, she never was short on supplies. Her mother a seamstress, Ehlert had a variety of fabrics available to her; the colors and textures were as inspirational to her then as they are now. Other non-traditional supplies were acquired from her father's basement workshop and the nature around her; Ehlert is known for her books on the natural world. She was given a table on which she could work and the privilege of not having to clean up her materials at the end of each day. (That table followed her to art school, served as her first dining room table, and is currently housed in the Milwaukee Museum of Art.) Not surprisingly, Ehlert went on to study art in college. After graduating from the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee in1959, she worked in graphic design for a number of years. Her first years (1965-1985) of illustrating children's books were limited by interpreting and completing another author's work. "I couldn't say to someone — especially someone that I didn't know personally — 'Can you change that word to something else because I'd rather illustrate this than that?'" Eventually, she became the illustrator, designer, and author of numerous books. In 1990, Ehlert's *Color Zoo* received a prestigious Caldecott Honor Award for its innovative use of die cut shapes and vivid colors. In an interview Ehlert recalled asking her mother if she knew what she had done for her. "My mother replied, 'No. I just thought you were interested and so I just decided to let you do it.' They never said any discouraging words to me."

## Work process

Ehlert loves the world of color, nature and form. Often her work starts out quite complex, needing the eyes of an editor to simplify and streamline the imagery and text. After thorough research on her subject, Ehlert begins her projects with a "dummy book," creating a storyboard layout with simple sketches. The art precipitates the text and the two are complementary of, rather than reliant on, each other. Ehlert is satisfied when she feels the illustrations and words are "dancing together."

According to Ehlert's self-described creative process, she thinks in fragments. Sometimes it may just be a feeling that gets her creative juices flowing, and working through the initial idea is often both a tortuous and joyful process. She has likened inspiration to swimming among fish and seaweed and has referred to her thought process as "blue skying" (free association). For Ehlert, the subject must be of interest; she is drawn to objects and animals that exhibit plenty of color. Her ideas and feelings become more concrete as she manipulates the paper, natural objects and layout of each project. Ehlert creates art with scissors, paper, glue, wire, thread, textiles, and things she finds throughout her daily routine. As each book is unique in subject, style and form, is helpful for Ehlert to create the book as it would appear when bound. "I don't want to be bored with doing things over and over. As an artist, I love to experiment, and I find that each book really has its own personality."

## **Artistic Style – Elements of Design**

Ehlert experienced the dissonance of cultural norms and inventive aesthetics early in her career. "My art styles were always a little bit out of left field, partly because of the color, but also because the stylization was not a popular commodity, either." Ehlert spent eight years working in an advertising art studio, putting together presentations for other illustrators and working on her own projects in the evenings. She later got a job as a graphic designer, which furthered her understanding of page layout and book shape.

Unusual book format is a hallmark of Ehlert's, die cuts is another. "In *Leaf Man*, I designed die cutting along the top of every page to show the perspective as the leaf man is flying over the landscape; as you turn the pages, the perspective changes. In *Color Zoo* and *In My World*, I designed the apertures so that they form the images by the overlay of pages with the cutouts." The illustrations are made by the negative space that allows the subsequent page to show through, a sort of tactile animation.

Ehlert's love of cloth is evident throughout her books. She possesses a global collection of fabrics, and often uses pieces in her illustrations. Her collage style has developed over time with successful experiments with two- and three-dimensional images (Snowballs, Red Leaf Yellow Leaf) using actual objects within the composition of the picture. The integration of real objects added both a new level of art interpretation and a new challenge of photographically capturing the collages. The end result of these pictures is images that convince readers that they can be felt rather than merely observed.

Ehlert's relationship with color goes beyond a physical sense of sight to a spiritual sense of wellbeing. "Color lifts my spirits. I can't think of any color I haven't used." If she can't find the color she wants, Ehlert will make it herself out of paint and/or paper. The publisher's production department then must find ways to replicate the pages true to the originals. South American folk art, with its vibrant colors and stylized art form, intrigues Ehlert. *Moon Rope* is an example of her applying her understanding of pre-Colombian culture to her own stylized collages. She again presents the continuity of culture and nature in *Market Day*, photographing folk art and using the photos to make compositions.

An aspect of her picture books that may be overlooked is the choice of text, font, and size. Writing for emerging readers challenges Ehlert to keep the words minimal and the font simple. *Century Schoolbook* is the font used in her Harcourt-published books, and the books published by HarperCollins are set in *Avant Garde*, both of which are sans-serif typeface, similar to the way a child learns to print the letters of the alphabet.

# **Multi-Layered Learning**

After a moment's interaction with any Lois Ehlert book, the reader is aware of the complex simplicity of its pages. Her books can match the reading pace of the reader, as fast or slow, there are opportunities for immediate and extended knowledge. The visual, tactile, and aural elements of Ehlert's books allow children of differing learning styles to receive and master the same information. Educators have long used Ehlert's books to convey language, science, and math concepts. From simple labels to glossaries to notes from the artist there is relevant information for readers of all ages. "I try to tuck in a lot of extra things, which, at first reading, may not be apparent to anyone, but maybe the second or the third time, they might notice them." Often there are suggestions for application activities: *Leaf Man* encourages readers to go outside and pick up leaves. *Growing Vegetable Soup, Pie in the Sky*, and *Snowballs* contain recipes, and *Color Zoo* and *Color Farm* make drawing animals easy. "I really want my books to be a jumping-off point for either the child or the teacher, or both, to do their own thing. I want them to interpret whatever is in the book in their own way, and use that interpretation as creative inspiration."

# Conclusion

As an artist, author, and graphic designer, Ehlert has been able to develop the entire tone of her books both through the design and carefully chosen rhythmic words. Her favorite art technique was and remains collage – the process of cutting out pieces of paper, fabric, or objects and gluing them to a backing. Her love of bright colors and interesting textures are evident throughout her body of work. Although Ehlert fears stealing something from another artist, it is her own sense of innovation and discovery, that continues to enable her to create authentic books that both children and adults enjoy.

# Awards

Ehlert won the Caldecott Honor Book in 1989 for *Color Zoo* and won a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year for Snowballs. Ehlert became the Booklist Editors' Choice for *Cuckoo/Cucú: A Mexican Folktale/Un cuento folklórico Mexicano*. She also was awarded the IRA Teachers' Choice and NCTE Notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts for *Feathers for Lunch* and received the American Library Association Notable Children's Book and Boston Globe – Horn Book Award for *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*.

# **Contact Information**

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- Milwaukee, WI 53202-3904

### **Illustrated Works of Lois Ehlert**

in order of publication date

<u>Mice</u> Simple, rhyming text celebrates what is nice about mice.

New York : Beach Lane Books, 2011. 1st ed. [32] p. :

 Fyleman, Rose, 1877-1957. LCCN: 2011-20555 ISBN: 978-1-44243571-1 (hardcover)
 New York : Beach Lane Books, 2012. 1st ed. p. cm.



Δ+

The narrator describes discovering how Ralph the dog can talk, appropriately saying words such as "roof," "rough," "bark," and "wolf."

LCCN: 2010-6866 ISBN: 978-1-44241305-4 (trade)



Illustrations and rhyming text follow ten caterpillars as one wriggles up a flower stem, another sails across a garden pool, and one reaches an apple leaf, where something amazing happens.

Ten little caterpillars

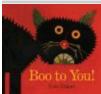
Ehlert, Lois.

Martin, Bill, 1916-2004. LCCN: 2011-2156 ISBN: 978-1-44243385-4 (trade : hardcover) New York : Beach Lane Books, 2011. 1st ed. [34] p. :



A collection of poems about a variety of birds and beasts, their camouflage and adornment, with an author's note on animal spots and stripes.

 A\* Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2009-34361 ISBN: 978-1-44240289-8 (trade) New York : Beach Lane Books, 2010. 1st ed. [36] p. :



When the neighborhood cat tries to crash the mice's harvest party, the mice have a plan to scare the intruder away.

Boo to you!

A\* Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2008-44352 ISBN: 978-1-41698625-6 (trade : alk. paper) New York : Beach Lane Books, 2009. 1st ed. [36] p. :

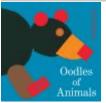
Lisa Upper Illustrator Study: Lois Ehlert



An alphabet rhyme that relates what happens when the entire alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. Features lower-case letters.

Chicka chicka abc

Martin, Bill, 1916-2004. ISBN: 978-1-41698447-4 (board)
 New York : Little Simon, 2009. Special anniversary ed. of Chica chica!, 1st Little Simon oversize board book ed. [14] p. :



Short, easy to read rhymes reveal what is unique about various animals, from ape to wolf.

Oodles of animals

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2007-17018 ISBN: 978-0-15-206274-3 (hardcover)
 Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, 2008. 1st ed. [52] p. :



Assorted graduates of the Bow Wow School meet at a farmers market and a dog park, where most of them remember their obedience training.

<u>Wag a tail</u>

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2006-13318 ISBN: 978-0-15-205843-2 (hc.) Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, 2007. 1st ed. [36] p. :



A man made of leaves blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him.

<u>Leaf Man</u>

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2004-9981 ISBN: 978-0-15-205304-8 (hc.)
 Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt Inc., 2005. 1st ed. [38] p.



Numbers from one to one hundred climb to the top of an apple tree in this rhyming chant.

Chicka chicka 1, 2, 3

At Martin, Bill, 1916-2004. LCCN: 2003-19106 ISBN: 978-0-689-85881-9 New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. 1st ed. [34] p. :



When a child works alongside her parents doing carpentry, sewing, and gardening, she thinks of being an artist as well when she grows up.

Hands : growing up to be an artist

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2004-1237 ISBN: 0-15-205107-4 (hardcover)
 Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, 2004. 1st ed. [42] p. :



A father and child watch the cherry tree in their back yard, waiting until there are ripe cherries to bake in a pie. Includes a recipe for cherry pie.

Pie in the sky

At Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2003-4986 ISBN: 0-15-216584-3 (hardcover)
 Orlando : Harcourt, 2004. 1st ed. [36] p. :



Describes some of the many things in the natural world--such as worms, seashells, flowers, and stars--that a child can appreciate.

In my world

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 2001-1958 ISBN: 0-15-216269-0 (hardcover)
 San Diego, CA : Harcourt, 2002. 1st ed. [34] p. :

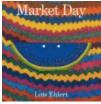


Simple text and bright pictures show how butterflies use flowers and identify several types of butterflies.

Waiting for wings

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 00-9765 ISBN: 0-15-202608-8 (alk. paper)
 San Diego, CA : Harcourt, 2001. 1st ed. [36] p. :

Lisa Upper Illustrator Study: Lois Ehlert



On market day, a farm family experiences all the fun and excitement of going to and from the farmers' market.

Market day : a story told with folk art

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 99-6252 ISBN: 0-15-202158-2
 San Diego : Harcourt, Inc., 2000. 1st ed. [36] p. :



Exploration of the natural world reveals barn angels, a butterfly angel, a sea angel, and other marvelous creatures.

Angel hide and seek

Turner, Ann Warren. LCCN: 97-21865 ISBN: 0-06-027085-3
 [New York]: HarperCollins, 1998. 1st ed. [36] p. :



The top cat in a household is reluctant to accept the arrival of a new kitten but decides to share various survival secrets with it.

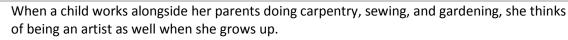
Top cat

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 97-8818 ISBN: 0-15-201739-9
 San Diego, Calif. : Harcourt Brace, 1998. [33] p. :



A traditional Mayan tale which reveals how the cuckoo lost her beautiful feathers. Cuckoo : a Mexican folktale =  $Cuc\dot{u}$  : un cuento folklórico mexicano

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 95-39560 ISBN: 0-15-200274-X San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. [34] p.:



Hands

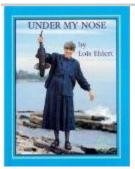
Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 96-8871 ISBN: 0-15-201506-X
 San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1997. [40] p. :

Introduces pattern recognition as a sock searches the house for its lost mate.



Murphy, Stuart J., 1942- LCCN: 95-19618 ISBN: 0-06-025879-9 New York : HarperCollins, 1996. 1st ed. 33 p. :

interweaves her creative process with her daily routine.



#### Under my nose

At Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 96-15441 ISBN: 1-57274-027-2 Katonah, N.Y. : Richard C. Owen, 1996. 32 p. :



Some children create a family out of snow. Includes labeled pictures of all the items they use, as well as information about how snow is formed.

Author and illustrator of books for young people, Lois Ehlert, shares how she

Snowballs At Ehlert, Lois.

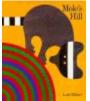
Ehlert, Lois.LCCN: 94-47183ISBN: 0-15-200074-7San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1995.1st ed. [34] p. :



Collection of songs from the point of view of a marmoset, a panda, a Komodo dragon, an egret, a Galápagos tortoise, a triceratops, and a tiger.

Crocodile smile : 10 songs of the Earth as the animals see it

Weeks, Sarah. LCCN: 94-3210 ISBN: 0-06-022867-9 New York : HarperCollinsPublishers, 1994. [44] p. :



When Fox tells Mole she must move out of her tunnel to make way for a new path, Mole finds an ingenious way to save her home.

Mole's hill : a woodland tale

At Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 93-31151 ISBN: 0-15-255116-6 San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1994. 1st ed. [34] p. :



A squirrel sneaks into a city apartment and a young child tries to come up with a solution that will help the squirrel find its way back outside.

Nuts to you!

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 92-19441 ISBN: 0-15-257647-9 San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1993. [34] p. :



Simple text and bright pictures enlarge the vocabulary of young readers.

Words

Martin, Bill, 1916- LCCN: 95-188258 ISBN: 0-671-87174-9 (board) New York : Little Simon, 1993. 1 v. (unpaged) :



Leaping lizards, marching snakes, a bear on the high wire, and others perform in a somewhat unusual circus.

**Circus** 

A<sup>+</sup> Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 91-12067 ISBN: 0-06-020252-1 [New York, NY] : HarperCollins, 1992. 1st ed. 1 v. (unpaged) :



An adaptation of the Peruvian folktale in which Fox and Mole try to climb to the moon on a rope woven of grass. Moon rope : a Peruvian folktale = Un lazo a la luna : una leyenda peruana

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 91-36438 ISBN: 0-15-255343-6 San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. 1st ed. 1 v. (unpaged) :

A child describes the growth of a maple tree from seed to sapling.



Red leaf, yellow leaf

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 90-21195 ISBN: 0-15-266197-2
 San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1991. [36] p. :



The rooster, dog, sheep, cow, pig, and other animals on a farm are made up of colorful shapes such as square, circle, rectangle, and triangle. Features die-cut pages.

Color farm

Ehlert, Lois. ISBN: 978-0-397-32441-5 (lib. bdg.)
 [New York]: HarperCollins, 1990. 1 v. (unpaged):



An escaped housecat encounters twelve birds in the back yard but fails to catch any of them and has to eat feathers for lunch.

Feathers for lunch

At Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 89-29459 ISBN: 0-15-230551-3 San Diego : Harcourt Brace & Co., 1990. [34] p. :



A counting book depicting the colorful fish a child might see if he turned into a fish himself.

Fish eyes : a book you can count on

Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 89-15352 ISBN: 0-15-228051-0 San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1990. [40] p. :



An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.

Chicka chicka boom boom

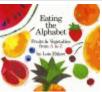
Martin, Bill, 1916-2004. LCCN: 89-4315 ISBN: 0-671-67949-X
 New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1989. [34] p. :



Introduces colors and shapes with illustrations of shapes on die-cut pages that form animal faces when placed on top of one another.

Color zoo

At Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 87-17065 ISBN: 0-397-32259-3 New York : HarperCollins, 1989. [32] p. :



An alphabetical tour of the world of fruits and vegetables, from apricot and artichoke to yam and zucchini.

Eating the alphabet : fruits and vegetables from A to Z
A<sup>+</sup> Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 88-10906 ISBN: 0-15-224435-2 San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1989. [34] p. :



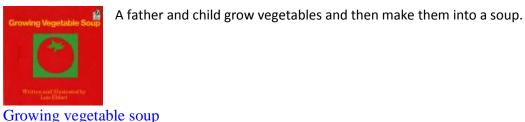
A distant marching band grows larger and louder as it nears, and then softer and smaller as it goes away again.

Thump, thump, rat-a-tat-tat

A<sup>+</sup> Baer, Gene, 1927- LCCN: 88-28469 ISBN: 0-06-020361-7 New York : HarperCollins, 1989. [32] p. : A mother and child plant a rainbow of flowers in the family garden.



Ehlert, Lois. ISBN: 0-15-262609-3 (lib. bdg.)
 San Diego : Harcourt, 1988. [32] p. :



A<sup>+</sup> Ehlert, Lois. LCCN: 86-22812 ISBN: 0-15-232580-8
 Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt Brace, 1987. [32] p. :

<u>Beginning to learn about shapes</u> Introduces 19 geometric figures with activities involving shapes and size relationships.

Allington, Richard L. LCCN: 79-19852 ISBN: 0-8172-1277-9 (lib. bdg.)
 Milwaukee : Raintree Childrens Books, 1979. 32 p. :

Number familiesExplains how every number is part of a family and functions differently.AtSrivastava, Jane Jonas.LCCN: 78-19511ISBN: 0-690-03923-9

New York : Crowell, 1979. 1st ed. 40 p. :

<u>The visit</u> Follows a little ant's journey, step-by-step, as she goes to visit her friend.

At Wolkstein, Diane. LCCN: 76-54297 ISBN: 0-394-83449-6 (.)

New York : Knopf : distributed by Random House, 1977. [29] p. :

What do you think I saw? : A nonsense number book Introduces the numbers one to ten while describing in rhyme the unusual things a young rhinoceros sees on the way to town.

A\* Sazer, Nina. LCCN: 75-26643 ISBN: 0-394-83182-9 (.) New York : Pantheon Books, 1976. [32] p. :

<u>The great flower pie; story</u>, Five hungry friends decide to bake a flower pie for lunch.

A<sup>+</sup> Di Noto, Andrea. LCCN: 72-181742 ISBN: 0-87880-380-7

Scarsdale, N.Y., Bradbury Press 1973. [32] p.

<u>Mathematical games for one or two.</u> Directions for progressively more difficult mathematical games and magic tricks for one or two persons using readily available materials such as cards, toothpicks, or checkers.

 Charosh, Mannis. LCCN: 74-187934 ISBN: 0-690-52325-4 (lib. bdg.) New York, Crowell 1972. 33 p.

#### What is that sound!

A<sup>+</sup> O'Neill, Mary Le Duc, 1908-1990. LCCN: 66-5958
 New York : Atheneum, 1966. [1st ed.] 54 p. :

#### Limericks; verses.

A<sup>+</sup> Lear, Edward, 1812-1888. LCCN: 65-22152 Cleveland, World Pub. Co. 1965. 1 v. (unpaged)

### Selected Annotated Websites Accessed September 2011

#### http://www.harcourtbooks.com

Harcourt Trade Publishers: Official Website of Lois Ehlert's publisher

http://www.harcourtbooks.com/leafman/ (direct link to interview and support materials) Features written interview conducted as part of a marketing campaign for the 2005 launch of *Leaf Man*. Features useful bonus features such as teacher's guide and activity sheet.

http://www.harcourtbooks.com/authorinterviews/bookinterview\_Ehlert.asp (direct link to interview)

Features written interview conducted as part of a marketing campaign for the 2002 launch of *In My World*.

#### http://www.readingrockets.org

Reading Rockets: Website supporting early literacy

<u>http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/ehlert/</u> (direct link to biography) <u>http://bcove.me/khxm9kz7</u> (direct link to video)

Video interview featuring a discussion with Lois Ehlert and her early love for art and how she continually strives to create highly original children's books.

#### http://www.teachingbooks.net/

Teaching Books features author programs, book guides, author websites, and an educator area. Most resources are available with subscription; worth researching.

<u>http://www.teachingbooks.net/content/interviews/Ehlert\_qu.pdf</u> (direct link to written interview)

Written in-depth interview; well-rounded and not marketing-driven.

#### http://www.childrenslit.com/

Children's Literature features author/illustrator booking service, special features and themed book reviews. Fee for some resources.

<u>http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/mai\_ehlert\_lois.html</u> (direct link to written interview)

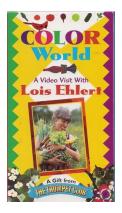
http://www.justonemorebook.com

Just One More Book: Podcast covering favorite books and authors

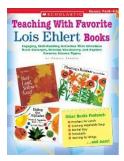
http://www.justonemorebook.com/2007/05/15/interview-with-lois-ehlert/ (direct link to podcast)

Interview conducted during the  $52^{nd}$  Annual Conference of the International Reading Association, with primary focus on the release of *Eating The Alphabet: Fruits And Vegetables From A To Z* 

### **Selected Resources for Librarians and Teachers**



Color World: A Video Visit with Lois Ehlert (Trumpet Club) Lois Ehlert (Primary Contributor) | Format: VHS Tape



Teaching With Favorite Lois Ehlert Books: Engaging, Skill-Building Activities That Introduce Basic Concepts, Develop Vocabulary, and Explore Favorite Science Topics [Paperback] Pamela Chanko (Author)



Moon Rope by Lois Ehlert, Teacher's Guide (Passports) by Harcourt Brace & Company (1997)

### **Works Consulted**

Bang, M. 2000. Picture This: How Pictures Work. San Fransisco, CA: Chronicle Books LLC.

Coutot, M. "Re: Lois Ehlert." *Children's Literature*. December 30, 2004. Web. September 16, 2011.< <u>http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/mai\_ehlert\_lois.html</u>>

- Ehlert, L. 2009. Boo to You! New York: Beach Lane Books.
- ---. 1992. Circus. New York: Harper Collins.
- ---. 1990. Color Farm. New York: Harper Collins.
- ---. 1989. Color Zoo. New York: Harper Collins.
- ---. 1989. Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.
- ---. 1990. Feathers for Lunch. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.
- ---. 1990. Fish Eyes: a Book You Can Count On. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.
- ---. 1987. Growing Vegetable Soup. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace.
- ---. 2004. Hands: Growing up to be an Artist. Orlando, FL: Harcourt.
- ---. 2002. In My World. San Diego, CA: Harcourt.
- ---. 2005. Leaf Man. Orlando, CA: Harcourt, Inc.
- ---. 2010. Lots of Spots. New York: Beach Lane Books.
- ---. 2000. Market Day: a Story Told with Folk Art. San Diego: Harcourt, Inc.
- ---. 1993. Nuts to You! San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.
- ---. 2008. Oodles of Animals. Orlando, FL: Harcourt.
- ---. 2004. Pie in the Sky. Orlando, FL: Harcourt.
- ---. 1988. Planting a Rainbow. San Diego, CA: Harcourt.
- ---. 2011. Rrralph. New York: Beach Lane Books.
- ---. 1991. Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.
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