

A Piglet Named **Mercy**

Oink!

Mercy Watson's adventures have ranged from wonky car rides to fighting crime, all complete with a tall stack of hot buttered toast. But before Mercy was the porcine wonder of Deckawoo Drive, she bounced into the Watsons' home in the most unpredictable and adorable way. Now you can read the story of how it all started from author Kate DiCamillo and illustrator Chris Van Dusen!

This kit includes seven activities to help you enjoy Mercy's origin story.



CANDLEWICK PRESS

www.candlewick.com

Illustrations © 2019 by Chris Van Dusen



Nice to Meet You!

Mercy first met the Watsons after falling off a truck. Have you ever been introduced to someone in a silly or crazy way? Tell a story about the first time you met someone, such as a friend, pet, or teacher. Answer the questions below, then draw and color a picture of your story on the next page.

What is the name of the person or animal that you met?

Who are they to you? (e.g., best friend, teacher, pet)

Where did you meet?

How did you meet?

How old were you when you met?

What are some things you like about them?

How do you spend your time together?



Nice to Meet You!

Draw and color the meeting from your story on the previous page.



Spot the Difference

Find the eight differences between the two pictures. Look carefully!



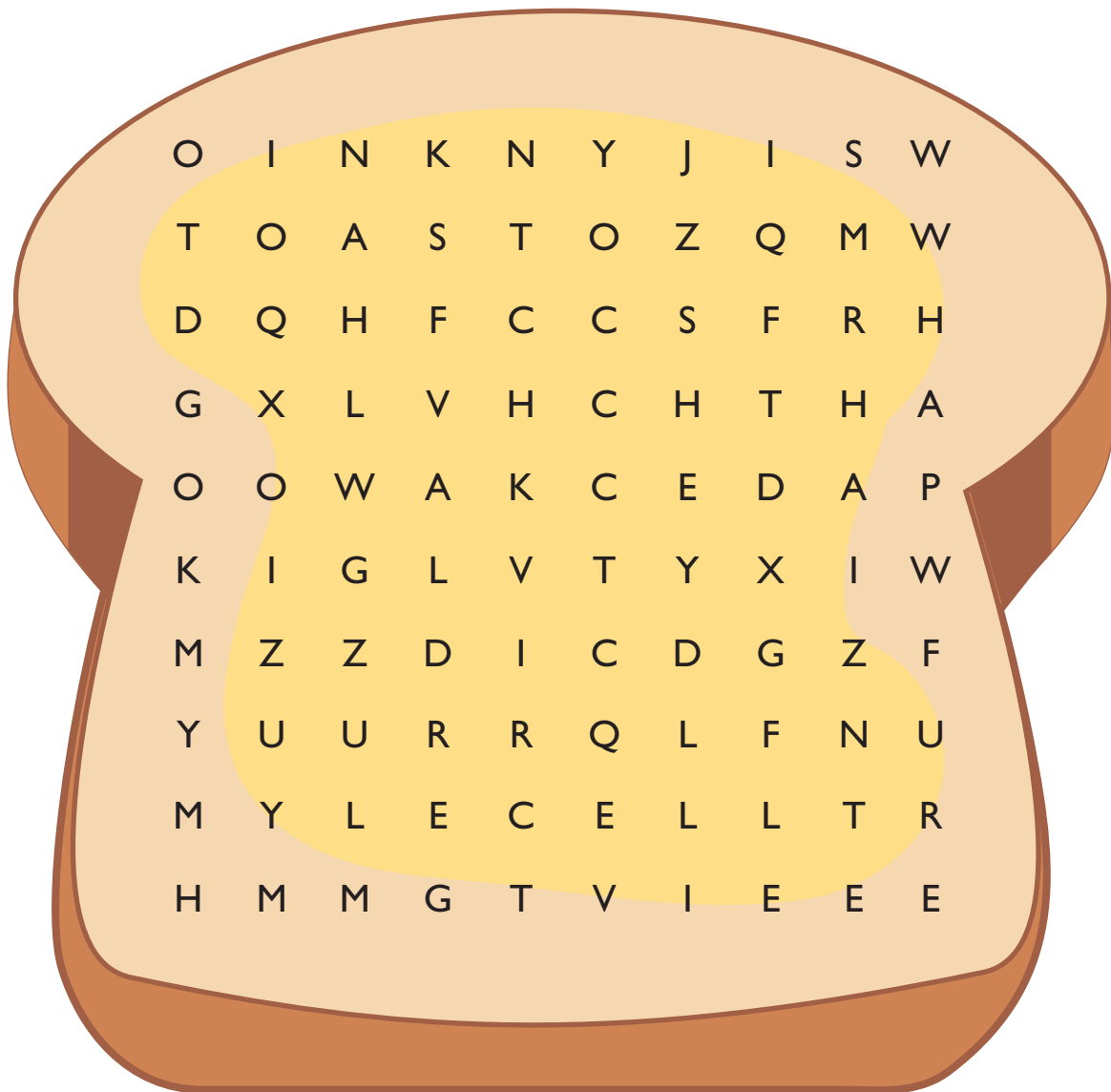
Answers

1. The glass of orange juice on the high chair tray is missing.
2. Mrs. Watson's hair band is a different color.
3. Mrs. Watson's apron has polka dots.
4. Mrs. Watson's chair is missing its back.
5. The toast on the floor is missing.
6. Mrs. Watson's juice is a different color.
7. There is extra toast on the stack.
8. Mr. Watson's chair is missing its leg.



Word Search

Find the words listed below and circle them in the puzzle.



☐ WATSON

☐ MERCY

☐ OINK

☐ PIGLET

☐ DECKAWOO

☐ TOAST



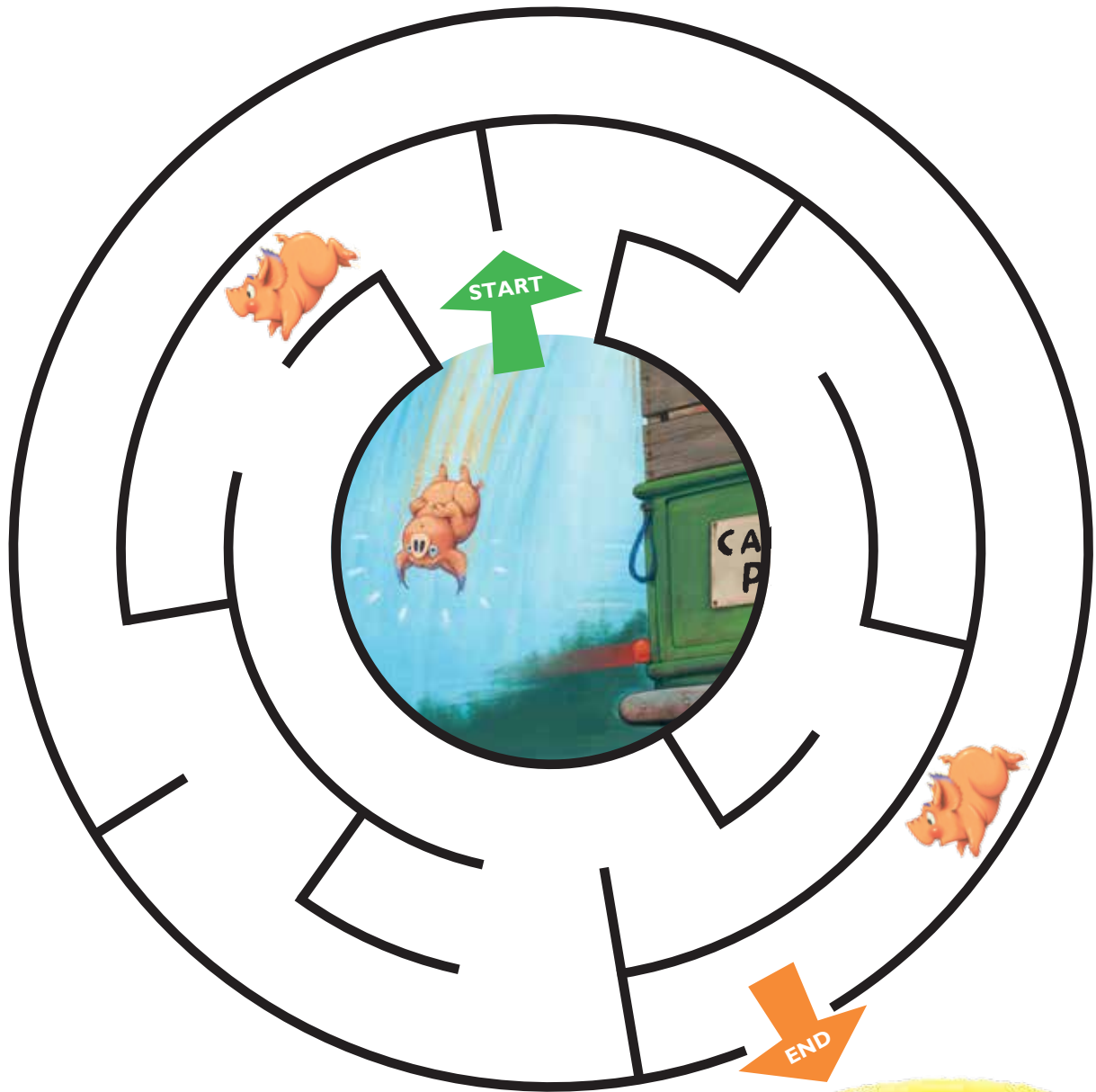
Coloring Page





Maze

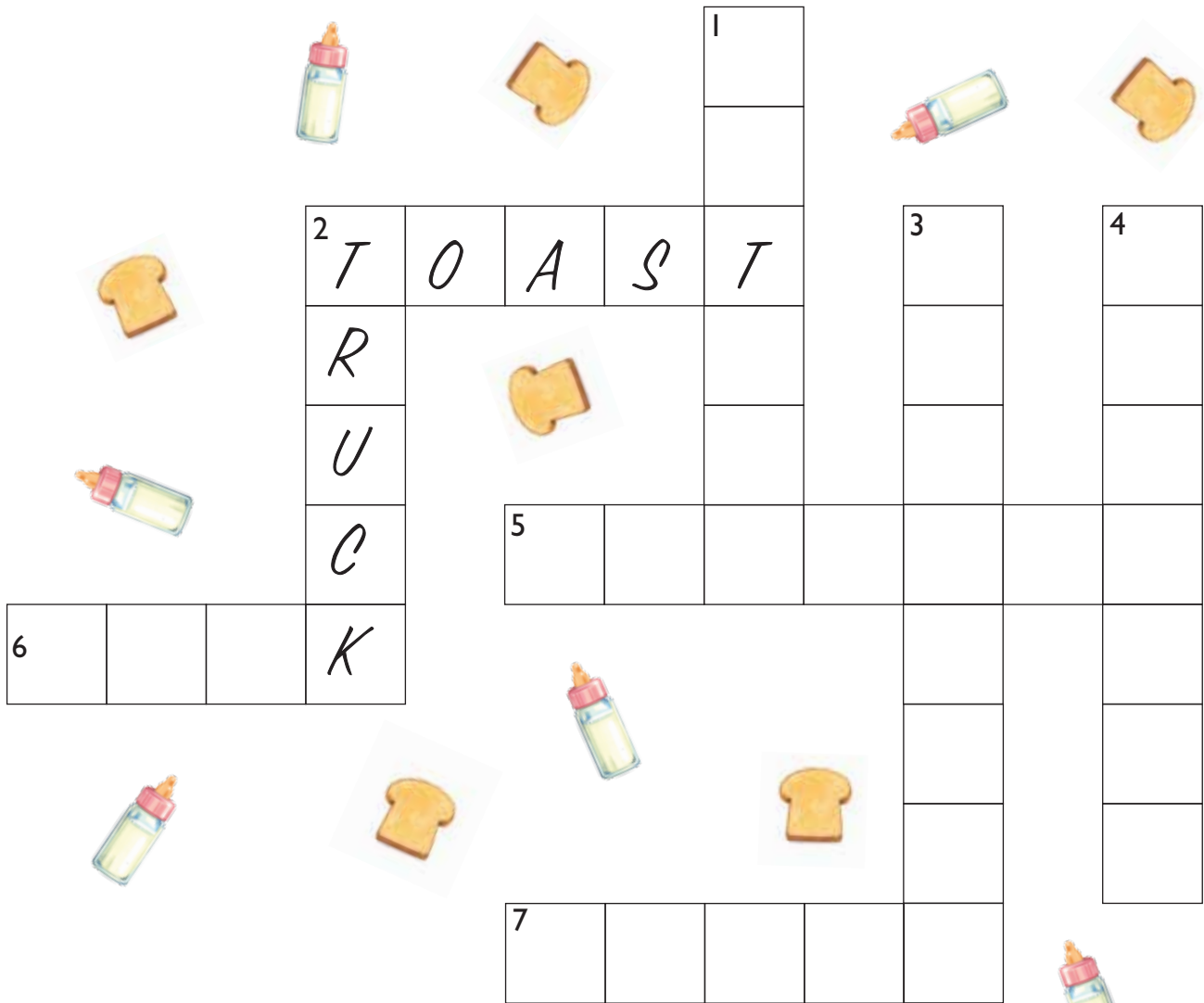
Oh no! Help this piglet find her way to the Watsons' house on Deckawoo Drive.





Crossword Puzzle

Use the *Across* and *Down* clues to fill in the puzzle.



ACROSS

2. Mercy's favorite food
5. Mercy is a "_____ wonder."
6. Sound a pig makes
7. A Piglet Named _____

DOWN

1. Mercy likes it on her toast
2. Mercy fell off one
3. The Watsons' life before Mercy arrived
4. Neighbor who does not approve of surprises

Answers
Across: 2. Toast; 5. Porcine; 6. Oink; 7. Mercy
Down: 1. Butter; 2. Truck; 3. Ordinary; 4. Eugenia

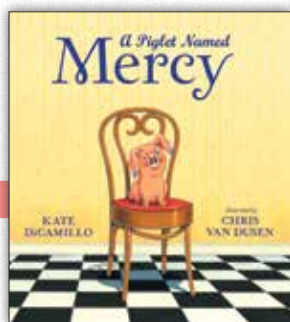


Connect the Dots

Starting at number one, connect the dots to complete the picture.



Ages
2–5



Mercy falls off a truck
and finds her way to the
Watsons' front door.



Follow Me
buttered p
drive-in r

Grow with Mercy

With the addition of a brand-new picture
book, young readers can enjoy Mercy Watson
stories from the earliest read-aloud age to the
exciting time of independent
chapter-book reading.



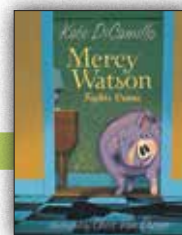
When disaster strikes,
can Mercy pull through
and save the day?



Ages
5–8



A surprise guest
on a car ride leads to
another adventurous
day with Mercy.



No thief should
underestimate Mercy
and her love for
buttered toast.



Illustrations © 2005–2019 by Chris Van Dusen

Age by Age with the

Ages 2–5

A Piglet Named Mercy
HC: 978-0-7636-7753-4

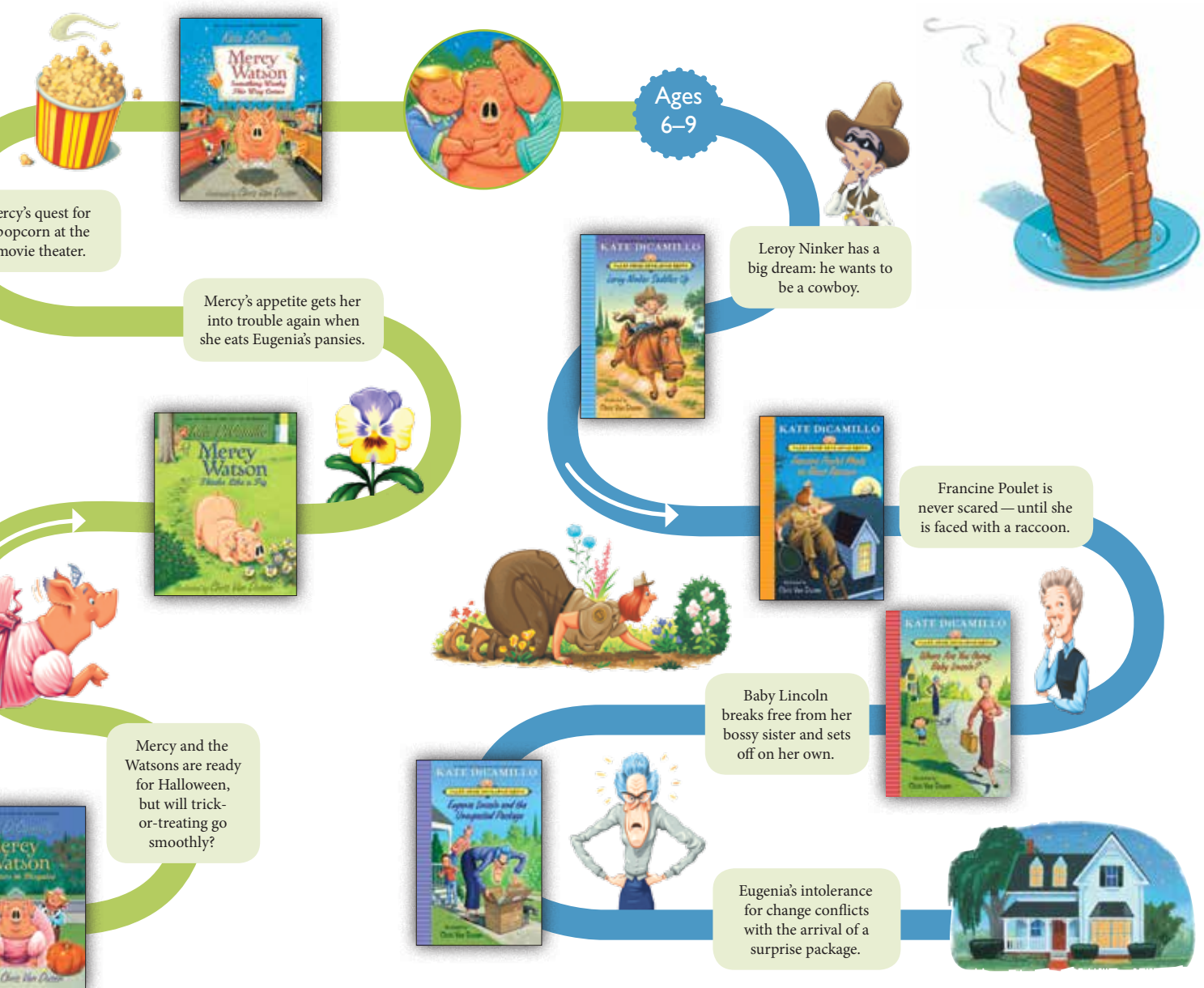
Ages 5–8

Mercy Watson to the Rescue
HC: 978-0-7636-2270-1
PB: 978-0-7636-4504-5
Also available as an e-book

Mercy Watson Fights Crime
HC: 978-0-7636-2590-0
PB: 978-0-7636-4952-4
Also available as an e-book

Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride
HC: 978-0-7636-2332-6
PB: 978-0-7636-4505-2
Also available as an e-book

*Mercy Watson: Princess
In Disguise*
HC: 978-0-7636-3014-0
PB: 978-0-7636-4951-7
Also available as an e-book



The Porcine Wonder

Ages 6-9

Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig

HC: 978-0-7636-3265-6
PB: 978-0-7636-5231-9
Also available as an e-book

Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes

HC: 978-0-7636-3644-9
PB: 978-0-7636-5232-6
Also available as an e-book

Leroy Ninker Saddles Up

(b/w illustrations)
HC: 978-0-7636-6339-1
PB: 978-0-7636-8012-1
Also available as an e-book

Francine Poulet and the Ghost Raccoon

(b/w illustrations)
HC: 978-0-7636-6886-0
PB: 978-0-7636-9088-5
Also available as an e-book

Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln?

(b/w illustrations)
HC: 978-0-7636-7311-6
PB: 978-0-7636-9758-7
Also available as an e-book

Eugenia Lincoln and the Unexpected Package

(b/w illustrations)
HC: 978-0-7636-7881-4
PB: 978-1-5362-0353-0
Also available as an e-book

About Kate DiCamillo



Kate DiCamillo's writing journey has been a truly remarkable one. She grew up in Florida and moved to Minnesota in her twenties, when homesickness and a bitter winter led her to write *Because of Winn-Dixie*, her first published novel, which became a runaway bestseller and snapped up a Newbery Honor. Since then, the best-selling author has explored settings as varied as a medieval castle and a magician's theater while continuing to enjoy great success, winning two Newbery Medals and being named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She now has almost thirty million books in print worldwide.

Kate DiCamillo created Mercy Watson, the porcine wonder, after listening to her friend extol the virtues of toast with a great deal of butter on it. Suddenly, the story about a pig that she was writing came to life, and Mercy as we know her was born. Kate DiCamillo has written six chapter books about Mercy, plus four stories for older readers set in Mercy's town in the Tales from Deckawoo Drive series, all of which are illustrated with warmth and humor by Chris Van Dusen.

Born in Philadelphia but raised in the South, Kate DiCamillo now lives in Minneapolis.

About Chris Van Dusen



Born in Portland, Maine, Chris Van Dusen started drawing at an early age. Some of his first illustrations came from passing time with his brothers. "We didn't have video games or computers to entertain us, so we drew instead," Chris says. "One of my brothers would sketch intricate war scenes. Another would draw animals so realistic, you'd swear they were breathing. My specialty was aliens, robots, and monsters."

He went on to study fine art at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and graduated with a BFA. Eventually he started drawing cartoons for a magazine for teenagers. For more than ten years, he worked as a freelance illustrator specializing in art for kids. His illustrations appeared in magazines like *Nickelodeon*, *FamilyFun*, and *Disney Adventures*.

Chris Van Dusen's first book, *Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee*, was published in 2000. Since then, he has gone on to create several outstanding books for children, including *The Circus Ship*, *King Hugo's Huge Ego*, *Randy Riley's Really Big Hit*, and *Hattie & Hudson*. He is also the illustrator of *President Taft Is Stuck in the Bath* by Mac Barnett and the best-selling Mercy Watson and Tales from Deckawoo Drive series by Kate DiCamillo.

Chris Van Dusen lives in coastal Maine with his wife, two sons, and their yellow lab named Opal.