

RIF ACTIVITY: COLORFUL CREATURES

BOOK SUMMARY

EXTRA YARN by Marc Barnett
(Balzer + Bray, 2012)

Annabelle lives in a drab black and white world. One day, she finds a box filled with colorful yarn. She soon makes herself a sweater but finds that she has extra yarn. She knits sweaters for others and eventually begins to cover her entire town in colorful rainbow knitwear. The change in her town is dramatic. When Annabelle refuses to sell her endless box of yarn to an evil archduke, he steals it. When he opens the box, it is empty. He tosses the box into the sea where it eventually finds its way back to Annabelle full of extra yarn.



DIRECTIONS

ESTIMATED TIME: 40 MINUTES

Materials: craft sticks, pipe cleaners, yarn

1. Introduce yourself to the group and tell them that you are going to be reading a story about a very special box of yarn. Read *Extra Yarn*.
2. After reading, ask the group why the box was empty for the archduke. Why was the box only full of extra yarn for Annabelle? How did the color change the way people felt? What would the group do if they found a box full of never ending yarn?
3. Explain that today since they do not have time to all knit a sweater, they are going to be making colorful creatures from yarn. TIP: Instead of using glue, demonstrate how to twist the pipe cleaner around craft sticks to form a butterfly body. Proceed to wind yarn around sticks, covering them with the yarn.
4. Pass out materials.
5. Assist as needed with the project. Children may need help tucking the yarn under at the end. This can be done with a pencil or with a spot of glue to prevent unraveling.

