

YELLOW DOG BLUES



ACTIVITY KIT

COLORING SHEET

YELLOW DOG

BLUES

ALICE
FAYE
DUNCAN

CHRIS
RASCHKA



ABOUT CHRIS RASCHKA'S ART

Award-winning illustrator Chris Raschka is best known for his vivid, playful, often soulful watercolors. But for *Yellow Dog Blues*, he used a new, unique approach — paint, fabric, and embroidery!

Chris began by sourcing raw recycled canvas from [FabScrap](#), a 501(c)3 charitable organization that makes available materials that might have gone straight in the trash. He painted the artwork directly on the canvas, then layered embroidery on top.

This recent article from [A Fuse #8 Production](#) by children's librarian Betsy Bird offers more background on the book's creation and Chris's art process.



SEWING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Create your own embroidery magic just like Chris Raschka! Grab some material, needles, thread or yarn, a simple pattern — and maybe some paint. Here are some ideas:

DIY Easy Stitch Cards for Children (Today's Creative Life)

https://todayscreativelife.com/easy-stitch-cards/?utm_content=buffer6c011&utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Embroidery for Beginners (Education.com)

<https://www.education.com/activity/article/practice-easy-embroidery/>

Sewing Projects for Kids: Starting Out With Embroidery (Childhood 101)

<https://childhood101.com/sewing-projects-for-kids/>

Simple Stitching and Beading with Burlap (The Artful Parent)

<https://artfulparent.com/embroidery-for-kids-simple-stitching-and-beading-with-burlap/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Blues music grew out of Black Americans' desire for joyful, soul-stirring music for times of both celebration and mourning. Why do you think people are drawn to sad songs? Can you think of any times that a sad song might comfort someone more than a happy song?
- Look up Clarksdale, Cleveland, Dockery, Memphis, and Merigold on a map of Mississippi. Draw a line from place to place to trace Bo Willie's trip. How many total miles was his trip? How long would it take to drive his route?
- Do you have a dog or other beloved pet? How would you feel if they ran away? What would you do to track them down?
- Do you think Yellow Dog will ever return to Bo Willie's house? Why or why not? How do you think Bo Willie would answer that question?
- Check out some of Alice Faye Duncan's and Chris Raschka's other books from the library and compare their plotlines, focuses, and illustrations to *Yellow Dog Blues*. How are they similar? How are they different?

FURTHER READING AND LEARNING

Sites for blues music and Mississippi Blues Trail study:

- About Blues Music — <https://www.britannica.com/art/blues-music>
- Delta Blues Museum — <https://www.deltabluesmuseum.org/>
- Mississippi Blues Trail — <https://msbluestrail.org/>
- National Blues Museum — <https://nationalbluesmuseum.org/>
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame — <https://www.rockhall.com/soul-and-blues>
- Visit Mississippi — <https://visitmississippi.org/things-to-do/blues-trail/>



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FURTHER READING AND LEARNING

Recipes to make your own Mississippi Delta Hot Tamales:

- Explore Cook Eat — https://explorecookeat.com/wprm_print/6346
- Roadfood — <https://roadfood.com/recipe/hot-tamales-recipe-the-mississippi-delta/>
- Southern Foodways Alliance — <https://www.southernfoodways.org/interview/tamale-recipe/>
- Southern Kitchen — <https://www.southernkitchen.com/story/recipes/2021/07/22/mississippi-delta-tamales/8062151002/>

Other books for young readers about blues and Black American music:

- *Blues Journey* — written by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers (Holiday House, 2003)
- *Dark Was the Night: Blind Willie Johnson's Journey to the Stars* — written by Gary Golio, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2020)
- *Double Bass Blues* — written by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez (Knopf, 2019)
- *Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters* — written by Michael Mahin, illustrated by Evan Turk (Atheneum, 2017)
- *Roots and Blues: A Celebration* — written by Arnold Adoff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (Clarion, 2011)

