

The Library of Congress National Book Festival

Eye Spy Questions for the Festival Poster

You can download a copy of the poster online from the Kids-Teachers Website at: <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/>

- 1. Question:** Let's start with an easy task. Can you find a domed building with a statue on the top? You can see this beautiful sight from the National Mall in Washington, D.C. where the annual book festival takes place. What is this building called?



Answer: You're right – it is the United States Capitol. Compare this [1846 daguerreotype](#) by John Plumbe to a [2007 aerial view](#) by Carol Highsmith. What differences can you spot? By the way, the statue on the top of the dome is called the [Statue of Freedom](#).

- 2. Question:** How many tents can you count in this drawing? Do you know how many tents there will be at the National Book Festival?



Answer: There are only three tents in the drawing, but at the real festival there are many more. The 2010 author tents (called pavilions) include Children, Contemporary Life, Fiction and Mystery, History and Biography, Poetry and Prose and Teens and Children. Check the [2010 National Book Festival site](#) for news and updates.

- 3. Question:** Thomas Jefferson said, "I cannot live without books." Can you find a fascinated young reader sharing a book with avid listeners?



Answer: You'll find our fascinated reader in the center of the poster, sitting on a red chair, surrounded by a wide variety of listeners. View a WPA poster showing [Little Miss Muffet reading a picture book](#) – with Mr. Spider anxious to hear every word of her story.

- 4. Question:** Peter Ferguson's 2010 poster depicts book characters listening to a story. How many actual books can you spot in Peter's artwork? Speaking of books, how many books do you think the Library of Congress has in its collections?



Answer: There are 17 books in Peter's drawing. One is being read aloud, the rabbit is holding a second, and there are 15 other books in the foreground. As for the Library of Congress, the collection of nearly 142 million items includes more than 32 million

cataloged books and other print materials in 470 languages; more than 62 million manuscripts; the largest rare book collection in North America; and the world's largest collection of legal materials, films, maps, sheet music and sound recordings. A detailed list of 2009 statistics is available [here](#).

5. Question: This animal is a member of the Ursidae family. Can you find a large furry mammal that has appeared in stories with a young golden haired girl?



Answer: Papa Bear it is – or perhaps even Mama Bear! This story originated in the early 19th century and many versions have been published since. Read the 1903 version of [Denslow's Three Bears](#) and have fun comparing it to this [1875 version](#) in which a little old woman takes the place of Golden Hair. Learn more about the origination of the “teddy bear” [here](#).

6. Question: Can you find a medium sized mammal with a pointed snout and a long bushy tail? He is wearing a scarf and has a handkerchief in his jacket pocket. Can you name a children's story featuring such an animal?



Answer: Most definitely, this is a fox, often appearing in folklore as a symbol of cunning and trickery. Read two fox fables – [The Fox and the Grapes](#) and [The Fox and the Crow](#) – both from the online book [The Baby's Own Aesop](#). Visit your local library and check out Roald Dahl's 1970 classic children's novel - *Fantastic Mr. Fox* - to meet a wily fox most loved by young readers today.

7. Question: Can you spot me? I have two long white ears and a habit of being late for important dates. I'm holding a book in my paws. What classic story do I appear in?



Answer: Yes, I'm the White Rabbit and I appear in the very beginning of Lewis Carroll's book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. View a [1917 photo](#) of Mrs. William Hubbard, wearing a White Rabbit costume, and an unidentified woman as Alice, acting out a scene from *Alice in Wonderland*. Read a [digitized version of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) - retold in words of one syllable by Mrs. J.C. Gorham.

8. Question: This animal highlights a sad chapter in the annals of animal history. Can you spot a flightless bird – almost 3 feet tall – that lived on the islands of Mauritius? It has been extinct since the 17th century. What was it called? Can you think of any children's stories in which this animal appeared?



Answer: This flightless bird is called the Dodo. In 1865 this creature was featured as a character in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Read an article about the dodo in this [November 29, 1917 issue of the Tacoma Times](#). Navigate to [chapter 3](#) in [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) to meet Lewis Carroll's Dodo.

9. Question: Look for a mammal with a triangular pointed face and a tipped-up nose. It has white stripes on its cheeks and one stripe running from its nose to the back of its head. It is the state animal of Wisconsin. What kind of animal is it? Can you think of any stories in which such a mammal appears?



Answer: Browse the pages of this [1910 North American Animals](#) advertising booklet to find an image of an American Badger. Could this be Mr. Badger from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*? Or is it one of Frances' relatives from Russell and Lillian Hoban's *Frances the Badger* series. (Hint: Click on the cover image and navigate to page 6.)

10. Question: Can you spot two good friends listening together? One is wearing a straw hat. His friend is standing behind him. What classic story features these famous characters?



Answer: Huckleberry Finn and Jim become friends in Mark Twain's classic novel the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. View E. W. Kemble's [1884 illustration of Huck Finn](#) and another of [Huck and Jim on a raft](#). Read a [chapter](#) that was published in an 1884 issue of *The Century* magazine. View a [1907 photograph](#) of Mark Twain. Zoom into a [literary map](#) depicting Huck's journey down the Mississippi. Sing the words to this [1917 sheet music – Huckleberry Finn](#).

11. Question: This pirate character appeared in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, first published in 1883. Do you see the man wearing an eye patch? Who is he?



Answer: Yes, it's Long John Silver – a fearsome peg legged pirate. View an illustration of [Jim Hawkins](#) watching pirates come ashore from a 1918 edition of *Treasure Island*. Read [an article about Robert Louis Stevenson](#) from the November 20, 1909 *San Francisco Call*. Read poems from Stevenson's [A Child's Garden of Verses](#).

12. Question: Do you see a red-haired girl with pigtails? She is resting her chin on her hands and is listening intently to the story. She resembles the main character in Lucy Maud Montgomery's classic novel, first published in 1908. The story takes place in the village of Avonlea, on Prince Edward Island in Canada. What is her name?



Answer: Yes, she looks like Anne Shirley – the main character from the classic *Anne of Green Gables*. Online versions of this classic story are available for [reading](#) or [listening](#) online. Learn more about Lucy Maud Montgomery in this online exhibit - [Picturing a Canadian Life](#).

13. Question: Edgar Allan Poe wrote a poem featuring a large black bird that is a member of the crow family. Can you spot it? What is the name of the bird – and the poem?



Answer: Poe's poem – *The Raven* – was first published in 1845. Browse the pages of an [1883 edition of this poem](#). View an [1896 portrait](#) of Edgar Allan Poe. Learn more about Edgar Allan Poe in this [Today in History](#) entry.

14. Question: This machine is often designed to replace human beings in performing a variety of tasks, either on command or by being programmed in advance. Can you spot a strange metallic creature with 2 round eyes, 2 round ears and a rounded appendage on the top of its head? What is it called? Do you know of any stories that have characters of this type?



Answer: Robots are frequent characters in science fiction literature, film, television, comics and computer games. Have you met Tik Tok? This literary robot appeared in L. Frank Baum's *Land of Oz* books. Explore the [Wizard of Oz online exhibition](#) and look for Tik Tok. View a [1936 photograph](#) of a robot on display at the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas, Texas. Read a [July 22, 1898 newspaper article](#) from the Bourbon News describing automatons of the past.

15. Question: An ape is a primate characterized by long arms, a broad chest, and the absence of a tail. Can you find an ape wearing a red jacket and a yellow crown? Can you think of any apes in literature?



Answer: Monkeys and apes appear as characters in many books. This ape does not look like H. A. Rey's Curious George, but could it be Shift the Ape from the C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* series? Look at [Edgar Rice Burrough's bookplate](#) showing Tarzan – and an ape. View a 1900s photo of a [chimpanzee in fancy clothing](#) getting ready to step into an automobile. Have fun listening to a 1914 recording of [The Aba Daba Honeymoon](#).

16. Question: Can you spot a man with a reddish beard, wearing a black hat, and holding a harpoon? In what famous story does this character appear?



Answer: *Moby Dick* was written in 1851 by American author Herman Melville. Captain Ahab was the commander of the whale ship Pequod on a search for the great white whale – Moby Dick. Zoom into this [Moby Dick literary map](#) and find Captain Ahab. Examine a [drawing of Herman Melville](#). Do you see a resemblance to Captain Ahab? Read this fascinating, but definitely negative [1852 review of Melville's book](#) published in *The United States Democratic Review*. It seems that this reviewer was proven wrong, based on the classic status of *Moby Dick* today.

17. Question: In the world of folk and fairy tales, one often meets elf-like characters with pointy ears. Can you spot a listener who might be an elf? Have you met any elves in children's literature?



Answer: Definitely, the pointed ears give this young elf away. Can you spot any elves in the [Woodland Serenade](#) – a 1907 illustration from *St. Nicholas* magazine? In current literature, J. R. R. Tolkien popularized elfin-like “hobbit” characters in his *Lord of the Rings* series. I wonder if this might be “Frodo Baggins” stopping by to hear a story.

18. Question: In folklore and literature, animals, plants or non-living things are often given people-like characteristics. This is called anthropomorphism. Can you find a tree with human characteristics? Have you read any stories with talking tree characters?



Answer: This tree person is hard to miss as it towers above all the other listeners. J. R. R. Tolkien created a fictional race of tree creatures he called “ents”. This tree person resembles “Treebeard” from his *Two Towers* in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Can you see the unusual face in this [1872 stereograph](#) of a cedar tree? View an [1892 chromolithograph](#) called the Tree of Life.

19. Question: This female character is holding the letter A in her left hand. She appears as the main character in an 1850 novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne called the *Scarlet Letter*. What is her name?



Answer: Her name is Hester Prynne and her story took place in 17th century Puritan Boston. View a [1860s glass negative photograph](#) of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Read about early laws in [The General Fundamentals of the Plymouth Colony](#) and find out why Hester is carrying the letter A.

20. Question: Several listeners have extra large noses, but only one is wearing a red cape and has a pink feather in his hat. This is a real person who lived in the 17th century, and also the main character in an 1897 drama written in verse by Edmond Rostand. What is his name?



Answer: Meet Cyrano de Bergerac – in real life he was born in Paris in 1619 and died in 1655. View an early [1900s photograph](#) of Amato dressed in the role of Cyrano. View a [photograph](#) of playwright Edmond Rostand.

21. Question: This literary character is wearing an armored suit and hat and is thoughtfully touching his white mustache and beard. He is the title character in a 17th century novel by Miguel de Cervantes. The story takes place in La Mancha, Spain. A popular musical called *Man of La Mancha* is based on this character. Who is he?



Answer: Yes, this is Don Quixote – Cervantes' hero. Read Leonard Bernstein's [description](#) of his story in a script he wrote before performing the Strauss tone poem – *Don Quixote*. View this [1875 sheet music](#) version of the *Don Quixote March*. Read a [1905 newspaper](#) article from the *Los Angeles Herald* celebrating the 300th birthday of Don Quixote.