



Dream, Dance, and Fly

A Maryellen Event

 American Girl®



Dream, Dance, and Fly: A Maryellen Event

This easy-to-use planner provides everything you'll need to host an engaging event based on Maryellen Larkin, our newest BeForever character. Girls will be entertained by the games and activities we've included for your store's use. Start planning an event today!

Printable Activities Components

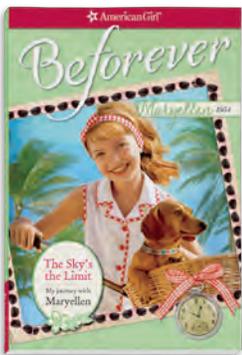
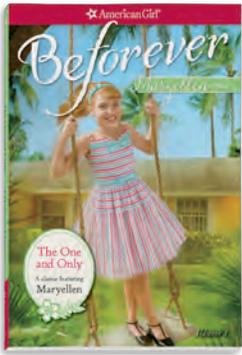
- Maryellen's Example Postcard
- Blank "Peculiar Postcards"
- Positivity Cutout Sheets
- Paper Helicopter Templates
- Maryellen Road-Trip Activity Booklets
- Maryellen & Me Picture Frames

Getting Started

- * After reading through the planner, choose the mix of activities that suits your store and customers.
- * Place signage in your children's section or near the cash register to promote the event. Post a sign-up sheet in your store and encourage girls to bring their dolls.
- * Advertise the event with announcements in your store's newsletter, on your website, and in your local newspaper. You can also distribute event information to local schools, libraries, and Girl Scout Troops. An example of promotional copy is shown below:

"Join us for an event inspired by American Girl's newest BeForever character, Maryellen Larkin. Maryellen is an eager, imaginative girl growing up in Florida in 1954. She feels pressured by her friends to be like everyone else—but by being true to herself, Maryellen discovers that differences are what make people special. At this upcoming event, girls will learn about this playful, adventuresome 1950s girl."
- * For each girl you expect to attend, make a copy of the reproducible activity sheets you plan to use. Gather the supplies you need for the activities, such as markers and scissors.
- * Consider merchandising the new Maryellen books in or near the area where you're hosting the event.





Activities & Games

Here's a selection of activities you can use to promote the newest BeForever character book line. Host an event with the mix of activities that suits your customers' interests and the space, time, and staff you have available.

Story Summary

Welcome the participants to the event. Introduce Maryellen as American Girl's newest BeForever character. Her stories are about standing out as her own person—and embracing other people's differences, too—in spite of pressure to conform.

Talking Prompt:

Maryellen Larkin is an imaginative girl growing up in 1954 in Daytona Beach, Florida. She daydreams about standing out and being special, like her favorite TV stars. It's not so easy to be noticed in her big family, though. At school, other kids have opinions on whom she's allowed to be friends with or which clubs she can join, and Maryellen feels pressured to be like everyone else. But by being true to herself, Maryellen discovers that differences are what make people special.

Note: This planner includes activities related to Maryellen's stories, but girls do not need to have read the stories to enjoy and learn from the activities.

Icebreaker: The One and Only!

Gather the girls in a circle. Use the talking prompt below to start the activity.

Talking Prompt:

Maryellen is the third of six kids in her family, so it's often hard for her to get noticed. But she likes to think of herself as "Maryellen, the One and Only!" As we introduce ourselves today, think up a really cool title that you could give yourself, such as "Sophie the Super" or "Emma—World Champion Cookie Taster!" As we go around the circle, each girl will step into the middle and proudly proclaim her name and special title. If you want, you can strike a pose to go with it.

Game: The Flamingo Jive

Supplies:

- 1 boom box or other sound equipment
- 3 downloadable music tracks

Pre-Event Preparation:

Download the music tracks from the following www.americanpublishing.com/music. Either burn a CD with the music to play from a boom box, or save onto a computer to use with other sound equipment. Have the girls spread out their circle while you get ready to play the music. Explain the game using the talking prompt below. If any girls in your group have limited





mobility, be sure to provide chairs and copies of Maryellen’s books as necessary and read the optional talking prompt entitled “The Palm Tree Jive.”

Talking Prompt:

We’re going to play a dance game called the Flamingo Jive. The Hand Jive was a popular dance in the 1950s. You’ll start by just walking around in a circle. Then we’ll add the moves for the Hand Jive.

1. Lean down and lightly slap your palms on your thighs twice, as if you’re calling a puppy.
2. Stand up and clap your hands together twice.
3. Turn your palms to the floor. Cross your right hand over your left hand twice. Then switch and cross your left hand over your right hand twice.
4. Make your hands into fists. Bop your right fist on top of your left fist twice. Then switch.
5. Stick out your thumbs. Point your right thumb over your right shoulder twice, as if you’re saying “Get outta here!” Then do it again on the left side.

Then you start over. The trick is to stay in rhythm with the music. It goes pretty fast! (Demonstrate the complete Hand Jive. Have the girls practice a few times until they’re able to keep rhythm with you.)

Now we’re going to add the flamingoes! Who here has seen a flamingo before? Flamingoes are big, bright-pink birds that live along tropical coastlines—like the coast of Florida, where Maryellen lives. They have long, skinny legs, and when they’re standing still, they like to stand on one leg. (Demonstrate standing on one leg.) So, here’s how the Flamingo Jive works. I’m going to put on some 1950s-style music. While the music is playing, everybody will walk in a circle and do the Hand Jive. But when the music stops, everybody will turn into a flamingo and stand on one leg. Try to hold your flamingo pose for at least 10 counts. If you fall over, you’re out!

(Optional) The Palm Tree Jive: Our tropical flamingo beach could use some palm trees. First, here’s a copy of one of Maryellen’s books for you to keep in your lap during the game. When the music stops, quickly balance the book on top of your head and raise your arms up high like two leafy palm trees. Try to keep the book balanced for at least 10 counts. If it falls, you’re out!

Then when the music plays, the Hand Jive starts over again. We’re going to keep going until one person is left. Are you ready? (Encourage cheering and excitement.)

Notes:

- If the girls are holding their balance well and nobody is dropping out after 2 rounds, increase to 20 counts.
- If you prefer not to include competitive elements in your event, you can alter the game so that no one is “out.” Instead, the game is timed. It lasts for 5 minutes rather than continuing until only one player is left.



Activity: Maryellen's Peculiar Postcard

Supplies:

- 1 Maryellen Example Postcard
- 1 blank "Peculiar Postcard" for each attendee
- pens, pencils, and coloring supplies

Pre-Event Preparation:

Download enough of the reproducible post cards to give to all attendees, and cut the postcards apart. Set writing and coloring utensils on a table. Pass out the blank postcards, pens, pencils, and coloring supplies. If possible, this activity should be done at a table. Have the example postcard ready to read and then pass around. Use the talking prompt below to introduce the activity.

Talking Prompt:

In the summer of 1955, Maryellen and her family went on a big road trip to see America. They went to places such as the Alamo and Yellowstone National Park. Along the way, Maryellen made sure to send postcards to her grandparents whenever she could—like this one. (Read example postcard and then pass it around for girls to view while you continue talking.) Postcards were even more popular in the 1950s than they are today, because people didn't have cell phones or the Internet for sharing pictures of their travels. They shared news of their trip with postcards instead.

Today, you're going to make your own postcard to tell somebody about an imaginary trip that you're taking. Your trip can be to anywhere—a haunted castle, the North Pole, or even Mars! Think of where you want to go and what you might see or do there. Then fill in the blanks in the story on the back of the postcard. When you're done with that, write down the name of the place you're going to on the front of the postcard where it says "Greetings from . . ." If there's extra time left, you can draw a picture of your destination.

Activity: Positivity Poster

Supplies:

- 10 Positivity Cutout Sheets
- Blank white printer paper, large white poster paper, or an easel pad
- markers and other coloring supplies
- double-stick tape

Pre-Event Preparation:

Download and print out 10 of the reproducible cutout sheets and cut out and separate the different pictures. Set up a "poster" on a table or hang it on a wall using tape. For the poster paper, you can tape together several pieces of white printer paper, or use white poster paper or an easel pad. Have a black or gray marker ready to use during the first half of the activity. Wait until the second half before distributing the cutouts, tape, and coloring supplies. Use the talking prompt below to introduce and guide the activity.



AG_AL_ExamplePostcard.pdf



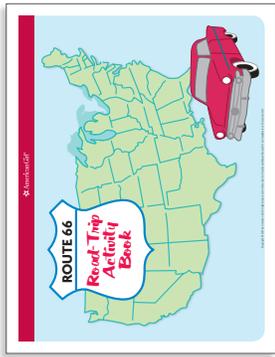
AG_AL_PeculiarPostcard.pdf



AG_AL_Cut-OutSheets.pdf



AG_AL_Cut-OutSheets.pdf



AG_AL_ActivityBook.pdf

Follow the instructions on the sheet I've handed out. When you're ready to add the weight at the bottom, come get a paper clip. Then hold your helicopter up high, let it go, and watch it spin down to the floor.

Take-Home Fun

Make copies of the picture frame craft and the activity booklet to pass out during the event. If girls finish an activity before the rest of the group, these activities will keep them occupied. You can also send the activities home with the girls. Each reproducible includes directions.

- 25 Maryellen Road-Trip Activity Booklets
- 25 Maryellen & Me Picture Frames



AG_AY_PictureFrame.pdf

Event Guidelines

- This event kit is recommended for girls ages 8 and up. Adult supervision of the activities is recommended. All the materials you use for crafts and games should be age graded as 8+.
- Remember that materials may be reproduced only for use with an in-store American Girl event.
- This event is designed to be free of charge. Please make every effort to accommodate all girls who are interested in this program.



Maryellen Example Postcard

Cut out along the dashed line 



Fold in half along the dotted line and tape at the bottom to create a two-sided postcard.



Maryellen Peculiar Postcard

Cut out along the dashed line →

Greetings from



Dear _____,
(Person/People you're writing to)

What a week it's been! The first day we
got here, we saw _____.
(noun)

It's a _____ that
(describe the noun)

_____.
(describe something the noun does or what it looks like)

Then this morning, we went _____.
(activity)

_____. My _____ was
(activity cont.) (noun related to activity)

very _____ and _____,
(adjective) (adjective)

and it kept _____ I guess being
(verb)

_____ like _____
(adjective) (famous person)

looks a lot easier on TV.

Love, _____
(your name)

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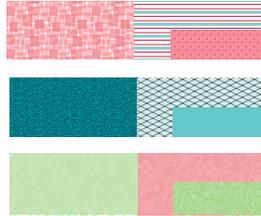
Fold in half along the dotted line and tape at the bottom to create a two-sided postcard.



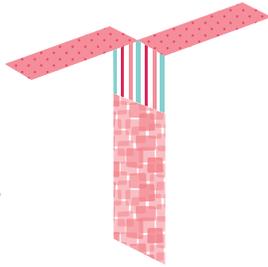
Helicopter Activity Instructions

Maryellen couldn't wait to show those mean sixth-grade boys what she could do! And she did show them—by building a real flying machine for the science contest. Today we're going to make our own flying machine—a paper helicopter. The helicopter is a classic design that spins rapidly as it descends. It works great when dropped from a high place. Try different amounts of weight on the bottom tab. Notice that the helicopter spins in different directions depending on which direction the rotors are folded.

Step 1: Carefully cut apart the three helicopter templates along the red dashed lines so that they are separated into individual strips of paper.



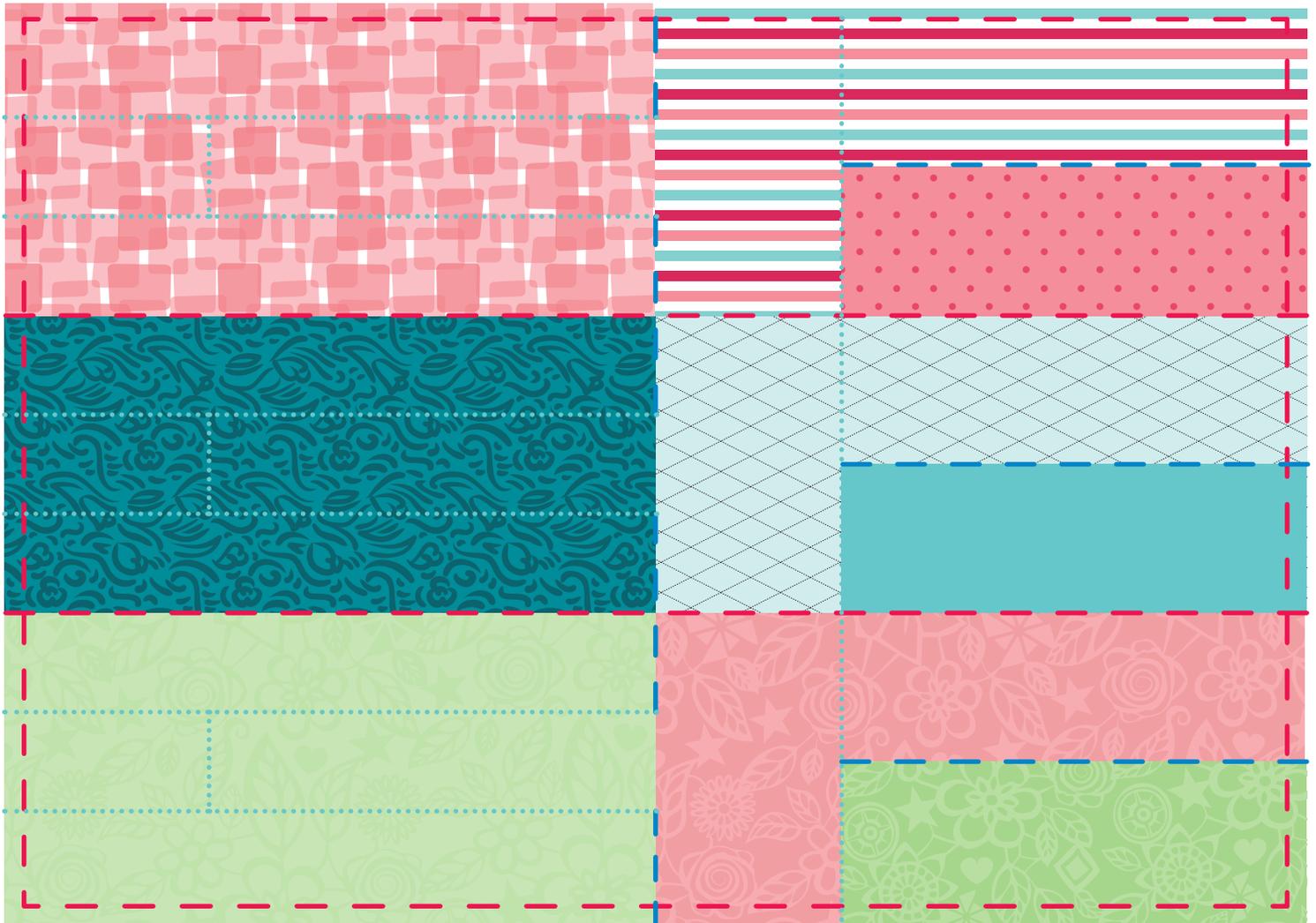
Step 2: Once all of the helicopter template paper strips are separated, take one of the strips and carefully cut a slit between the top flaps along the long blue dashed line. Fold the top flaps, or rotors, down along the dotted fold lines in the center of the helicopter. Fold these flaps in different directions so that one rotor extends to the left and one to the right.



Step 3: Separate the side flaps by cutting along the short blue dashed lines that extend into the middle of the helicopter. Fold these flaps toward each other along the light-blue dotted lines, so that they overlap and create a narrow column at the bottom of the helicopter.



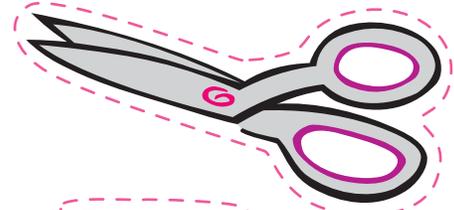
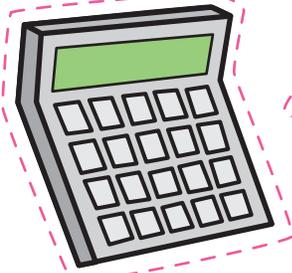
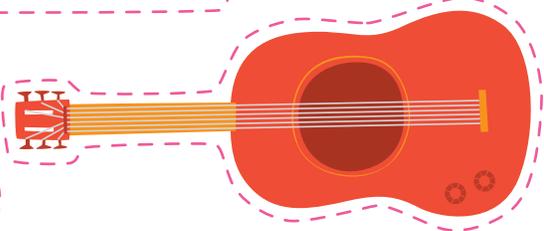
Step 4: Near the bottom of the column, fold up the small tab along the light-blue dotted fold line. Attach a paper clip to the folded bottom tab to add weight. Hold the helicopter high above your head, with your fingers placed just below the rotors. Let your helicopter go, and watch your flying machine gracefully twirl and spin to the ground!



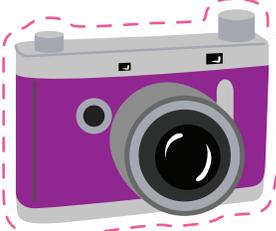


I ♥ Nature!

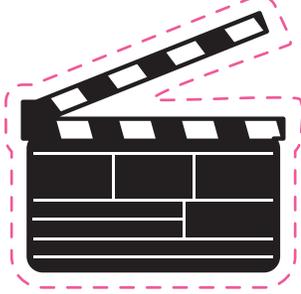
I ♥ Math!



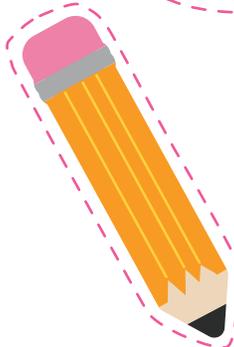
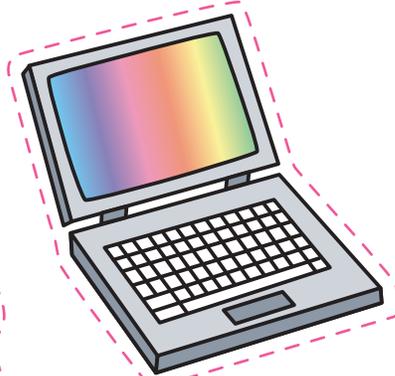
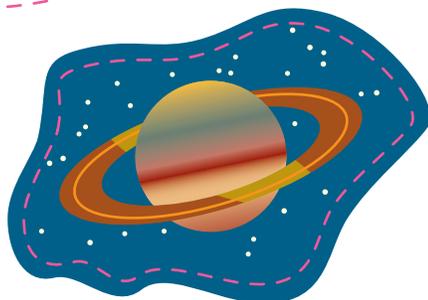
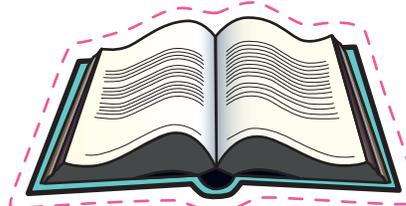
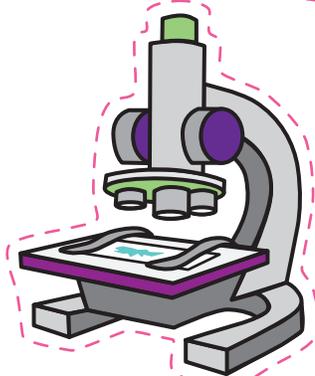
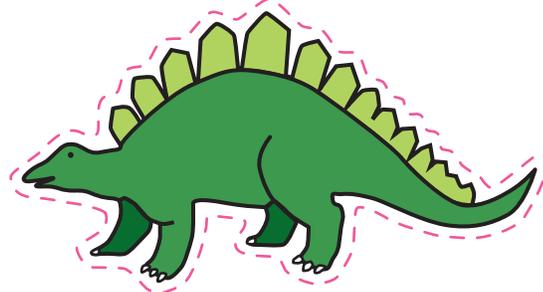
I ♥ Art!



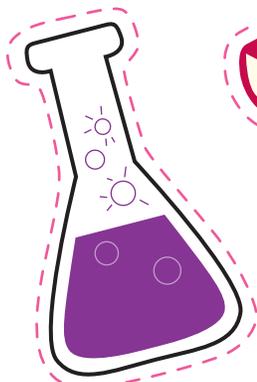
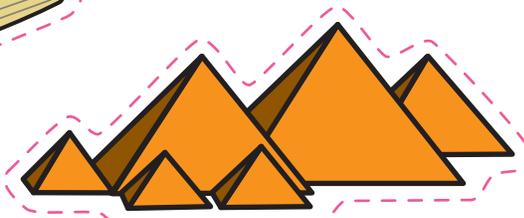
I ♥ Music!



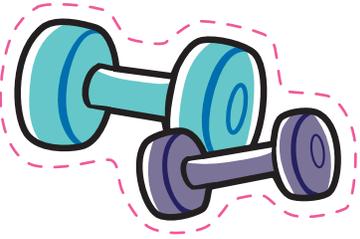
I ♥ Science!



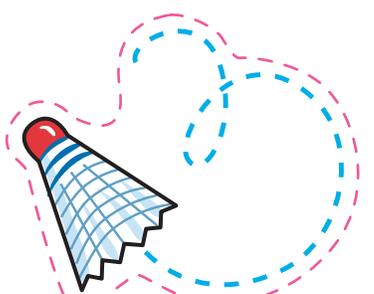
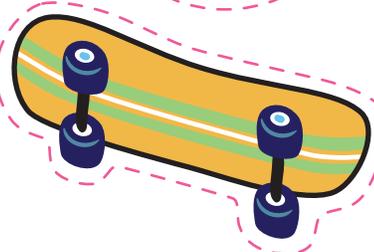
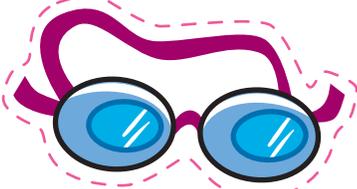
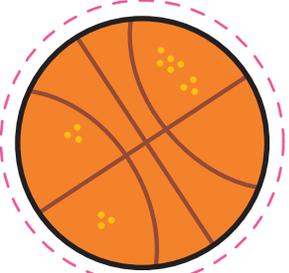
I ♥ History!



I ♥ Reading!



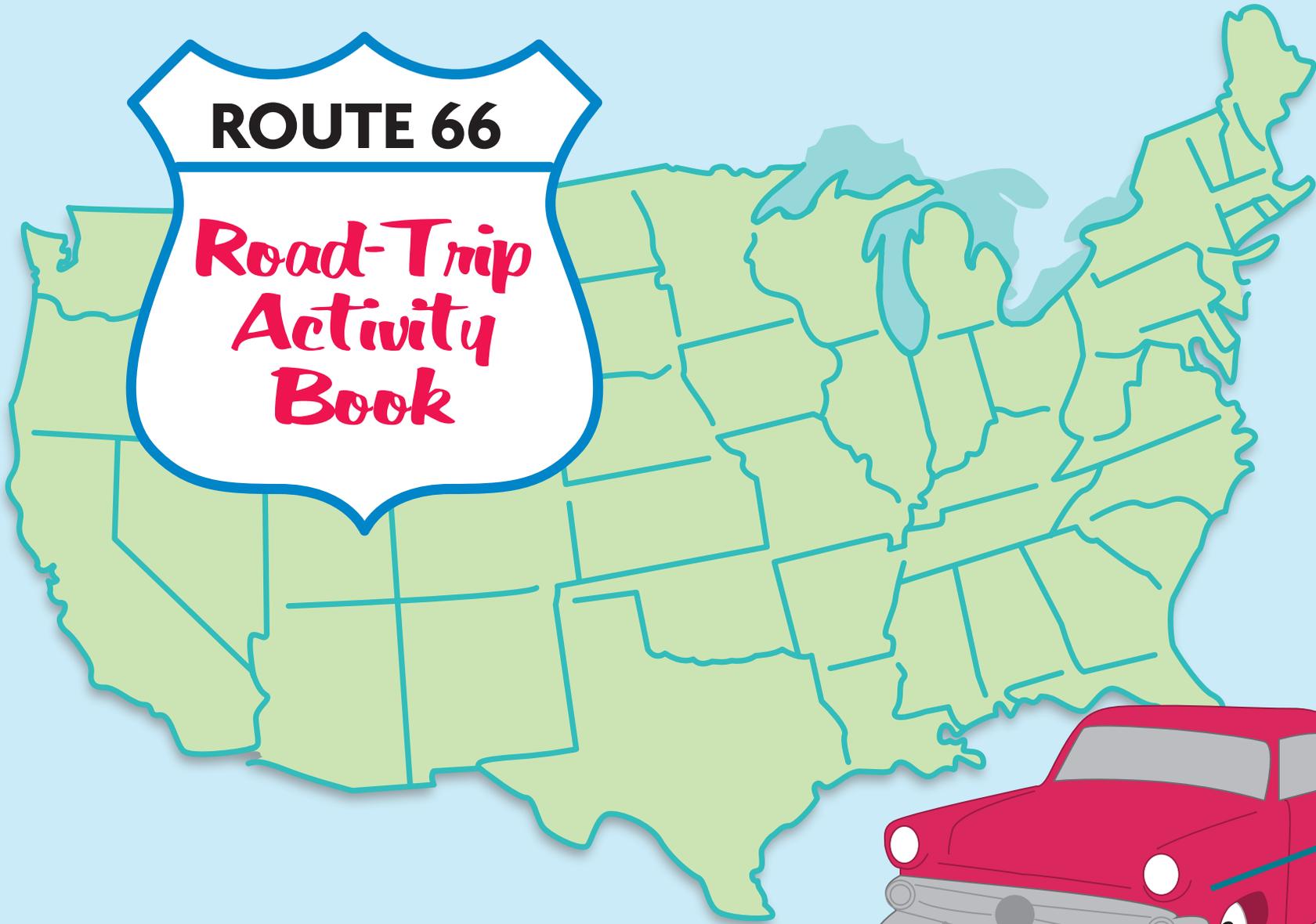
I ♥ Sports!





ROUTE 66

*Road-Trip
Activity
Book*





Maryellen Larkin is growing up in a big family. Her story begins in 1954, at the height of the baby boom. With five brothers and sisters, Maryellen sometimes feels lost in the crowd. She wants to stand out, like a star from one of her favorite TV shows. And she has lots of big ideas—but when she does get noticed, it's often not for the reason she planned.

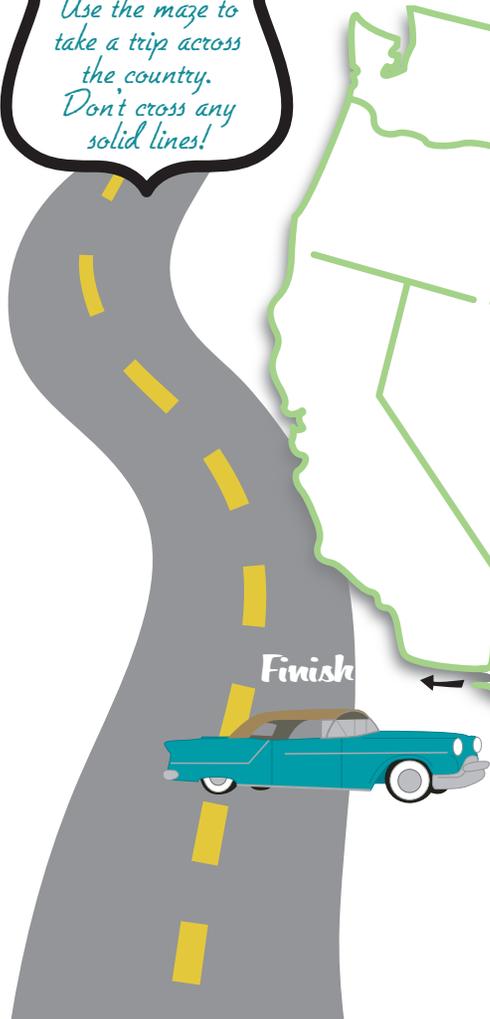
Learn more about Maryellen's world with the activities in this book. Have fun, and don't be afraid to use your imagination—Maryellen never is!



CROSS

Country

ROUTE
Use the maze to take a trip across the country. Don't cross any solid lines!



An activity that grew in popularity during Maryellen's time was the road trip. You may have heard of Route 66; it is a very famous highway that spans the country from Chicago to Los Angeles. In the 1950s, this highway was the main route for people heading to sunny southern California for work or vacations.

Because Route 66 was so well traveled, people started building roadside attractions such as drive-in movie theaters and petting zoos, or even strange things like the World's Largest Catsup Bottle, to give travelers things to see and buy. Maryellen might have even owned a road-trip activity book, similar to this one, that would help keep her whole family entertained as they traveled through the vast and exciting American landscape!

Quiz Show

The 1950s was the golden age of television. Maryellen loved to watch TV and daydream that she was the star of the show. During this era, quiz shows were especially popular. Now you can pretend to be on a 1950s-style quiz show with this activity. Choose someone near you and get to know her a bit. Then answer each challenge question below with her in mind. Read your answers out loud to see if you were right about how that person would answer. If she could win one million dollars, would your new friend . . .

- eat a dozen live worms? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- sell her pets? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- move to Greenland? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- swim in a shark tank? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- agree not to watch TV ever again? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- chase a tornado? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- let tarantulas crawl up her arms? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- come to school in her pajamas? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- agree not to talk for one year? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- have a camera crew film her 24 hours a day for a year and broadcast it on TV? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*

- color her hair blue? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- eat chocolate-covered crickets? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- sing the national anthem to her favorite pop music star in person? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- wear orange plaid pants every day for a week? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- spend an hour handcuffed to her sister or brother? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- go skydiving? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- wade up to her shoulders in a swimming pool full of snails? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- make friends with the person she dislikes most? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- give up pizza forever? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*
- live on a deserted island for one year? ___ *She'd do that.* ___ *No way!*

Answers

0 to 6 correct:

What your new friend is willing to do is pretty much a mystery to you. Take this opportunity to get to know her better!

7 to 14 correct:

You have a pretty good idea of what's important to your new pal.

15 to 20 correct:

Wow! Have the two of you been competing on a game show lately?

Sister Act Quiz

In the 1950s, when Maryellen was a girl, America's economy was booming, and families were growing quickly—so quickly that this era is nicknamed “the baby boom.” Maryellen has five brothers and sisters! She sometimes finds it hard to be a good sister to all her siblings. Take this quiz to find out what kind of sister *you* are, or would be.

- Both you and your sister always want to ride in the front seat on car rides. You race as fast as you can and push her out of the way to get to the car door first.
 - That's me.
 - That sometimes happens.
 - That never happens.
- The dinner dishes are clean, and homework's done. It's time to watch TV with the family. You and your brother argue over what to watch.
 - That's me.
 - That sometimes happens.
 - That never happens.
- Your little sister is in your school this year. When you see her in the halls, you don't say hello.
 - That's me.
 - That sometimes happens.
 - That never happens.
- You're bored on a road trip, so you start poking your brother in the arm. It's a fun way to pass the time.
 - That's me.
 - That sometimes happens.
 - That never happens.

Answers

mostly a's: *Constant Combat*

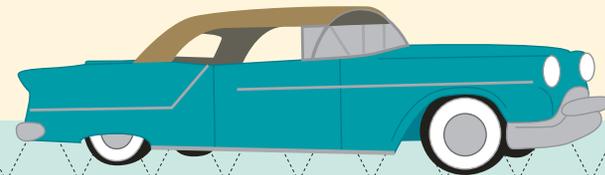
Most of the time, you and your siblings act like enemies! It's time to call a truce. Talk about “problem areas” that set off fights, and come up with ways to keep the peace. Stay calm, and try to really listen to your sib's side of the story. Coming up with a solution together will make you both feel like winners.

mostly b's: *Struggling Sibling*

You know you should try to control yourself, but sometimes you lash out at your siblings despite your good intentions. The next time your nerves are rattled, take a minute to think—will fighting really improve things? Try taking a break and spending time apart from your siblings till you can cool down.

mostly c's: *Keeping the Peace*

You do a great job of getting along with your siblings. Even when a situation doesn't seem completely fair, you trust your parents and siblings enough to know that it will probably all even out in the end. You remember that your brothers and sisters aren't only part of your family—they can also be friends.



What's in a Name?

When Maryellen starts fourth grade, her teacher, Mrs. Humphrey, keeps on calling her by her older sisters' names! Being one of six kids in her family, Maryellen is used to getting lost in the shuffle, but perhaps knowing a little bit more about the Larkin family and Maryellen's friends will help Mrs. Humphrey keep everyone's names straight. Follow the wandering lines to learn more about each of Maryellen's siblings and friends.

Angela — Maryellen's second sister, who plays piano

Wayne — a new girl in class

Joan — Maryellen's best friends—most of the time

Carolyn — Maryellen's next-door neighbor

Beverly — Maryellen's younger sister, who acts like a queen

The Karens — a big pain

Davy — Maryellen's oldest sister, who has a boyfriend

WACKY

Ad

Because so many people started watching TV in the 1950s, companies realized they could use television to advertise their products. And just like that, TV commercials were born! Here's a chance to create your own wacky TV commercial. Just fill in each of the requested word categories in section 1. Then flip the page and transfer your word choices into the paragraph in section 2. Read your TV ad aloud for a good laugh!

Section 1

1. noun (a person or a thing, such as *dog* or *broom*):
2. noun (a place):
3. nonsense word:
4. verb (an action word, like *run* or *dive*):
5. noun:
6. verb:
7. adjective (a word that describes something, like a *furry* cat):
8. adjective:
9. number:
10. adjective:
11. adverb (a word that describes an action, such as, *slowly*):
12. adjective:
13. number:
14. measure of time:
15. adjective:
16. adjective:
17. noun:
18. number:

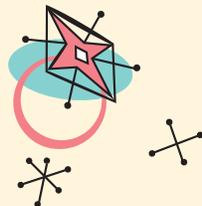
WACKY

Ad

Section 2

Is your 1 _____ making a mess of your 2 _____? Try
 3 _____! It will 4 _____ your whole 5 _____
 and 6 _____ it to unbelievable heights! Watch as we demon-
 strate the 7 _____ abilities of this 8 _____ product!
 Everyone should buy at least 9 _____ of these!

To order, call the number on your screen. 10 _____ phone
 operators will 11 _____ take your request. 12 _____
 service will be yours! Call within the next 13 _____
 14 _____, and you will receive a 15 _____,
 16 _____ 17 _____—a 18 _____-dollar
 value—absolutely free. What a bonus! Act now!



Perfect Pals

Maryellen has many friends. Davy is her best pal for playing imaginative games outside, but for sleepovers, she calls her two best girlfriends—they're both named Karen! She's also friendly with Angela, a new girl in her class whom she helps with schoolwork. Take this quiz to find out what kinds of people you tend to befriend. Follow the arrows to the answers that describe you best.



Giggle Gang

You love to laugh! Whether you're in a big group or just hanging out with one pal, you're drawn to funny, outgoing girls.

Good Sports

You like your friends to be athletic and always ready to play. For you, making friends on a sports team is just as important as playing your best.

Care Bears

You treasure the friendship of girls who show they care. Knowing they're always there to support you and share close moments is important to you.

Gab with Grandma

The next time you see your grandma, ask her what decade she grew up in. Chances are it was the 1950s, just like Maryellen! Get a firsthand look at what growing up in Maryellen's time might've been like by filling out this questionnaire with your grandma.

1. Full name:
2. Birthday (and year):
3. City or town where she was born:
4. First language:
5. Number of siblings:
6. Favorite radio or TV show:
7. Best school subject:
8. Favorite toy:
9. Craziest hairstyle:
10. Funniest clothing fad:
11. Silliest nickname:
12. Favorite musical performer:
13. Best childhood birthday present:
14. Favorite kinds of books to read:
15. President of the U.S. when she was your age:
16. Allowance she got:
17. First after-school job:

Answer Key

Cross Country



What's in a Name?

- Angela _____ a new girl in class
Wayne _____ a big pain
Joan _____ Maryellen's oldest sister, who has a boyfriend
Carolyn _____ Maryellen's second sister, who plays piano
Beverly _____ Maryellen's younger sister, who acts like a queen
The Karens _____ Maryellen's best friends- most of the time
Davy _____ Maryellen's next-door neighbor



1. Choose a favorite picture of yourself that you would like to include in your picture frame with Maryellen. Have an adult help you trim your picture if it is too large for the frame.
2. Cut out the frame and the center piece along the dashed blue lines--not the dotted fold lines. Try cutting a small slit in the green background to make it easier to cut out the rest of the background. Position and tape your picture to the back of the frame, with the picture facing out. Be sure not to let your tape show on the outside of the frame.
3. After you have added your picture, fold the frame along the dotted blue center fold line. Fold the frame along the two additional fold lines to create a base for the picture frame.
4. Cut slits in the bottom and top along the small blue dashed lines. Interlock the two cutout strips in the base flaps of the frame to create a secure base.
5. Set up your Maryellen & Me picture frame in a special place to help you remember the special time you had learning more about Maryellen and her exciting life in the 1950s!

Maryellen & Me Picture Frame Instructions

