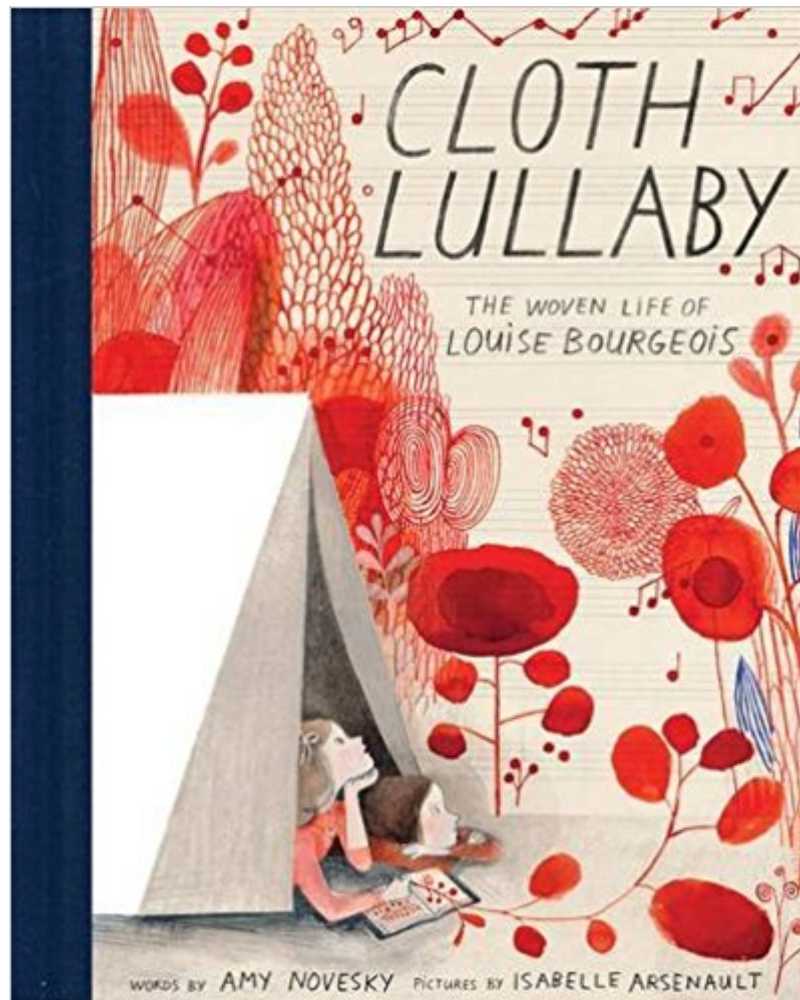




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Cloth Lullaby: The Woven Life Of Louise Bourgeois



Synopsis

Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010) was a world-renowned modern artist noted for her sculptures made of wood, steel, stone, and cast rubber. Her most famous spider sculpture, *Maman*, stands more than 30 feet high. Just as spiders spin and repair their webs, Louise's own mother was a weaver of tapestries. Louise spent her childhood in France as an apprentice to her mother before she became a tapestry artist herself. She worked with fabric throughout her career, and this biographical picture book shows how Bourgeois's childhood experiences weaving with her loving, nurturing mother provided the inspiration for her most famous works. With a beautifully nuanced and poetic story, this book stunningly captures the relationship between mother and daughter and illuminates how memories are woven into us all.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (March 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419718819

ISBN-13: 978-1419718816

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #21 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Sculpture #28 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

Customer Reviews

Gr 2 Up • This picture book biography of artist Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010), who was best known for her installation art and sculpture, highlights the roots of her inspiration. Through text and images, the author and illustrator emphasize the aspects of Bourgeois's childhood that influenced her: the river that flowed past her house, the colors of the flowers and plants in the garden, the "web of stars above her," and her nurturing mother, who taught her how to weave and repair tapestries. Novesky makes excellent use of simile ("Her family lived in a big house on the

water that wove like a wool thread through everything.") and alliteration ("She taught her about the warp and the weft and how to weave."). Bourgeois's mother is also compared to a spider – "a repairer of broken things." As the story progresses, the images of flowers and plants, the cloth, and the water become larger, sometimes taking up most of the page. The perspective also changes, as readers see what Bourgeois saw as a young girl – the beauty of nature, her mother at work, and the tools her mother used – and, finally, her creations: giant spiders and webs, spirals and circular webs, and cloth drawings and books. VERDICT An inventive introduction to the work of a celebrated artist and a useful mentor text for exploring how language and imaginative, varied illustrations can work together to convey an idea. – Myra Zarnowski, City University of New York

****STARRED REVIEW**** "With evocative, gorgeous illustrations and an inspirational story of an artist not often covered in children's literature, this arresting volume is an excellent addition to nonfiction picture book collections, particularly those lacking titles about women artists." (Booklist) "An inventive introduction to the work of a celebrated artist and a useful mentor text for exploring how language and imaginative, varied illustrations can work together to convey an idea." (School Library Journal) ****STARRED REVIEW**** "The evocative, hand-lettered text, peppered with quotations in red ink, provides an impressionistic portrait of the memories, colors, sounds, and images propelling Louise's art. These motifs connect the imaginative ink, pencil, pastel, and watercolor illustrations, done in a palette of indigo, red, and gray. Bold, repetitive patterns of stylized flowers, woven crosshatches, spirals, giant spiders, and musical notes form the perfect background for the cloth lullaby Louise weaves for herself. Splendid visual and verbal introduction to little-known artist Louise Bourgeois." (Kirkus)

Unique, unusually stunning and creative picture book. Every page is a wonder and joy. Incredible biography of this little known artist. Perfect for classroom use or a child's library.

I thought it was too early for my 21-month-old baby to read it. How wrong was I. He picked it out from a pile and thoroughly enjoyed reading it with me. Of course I wasn't reading word for word to him, spoke to the pictures instead. He loved it in his own way - relating to things he knows: river, flowers, mommy, daddy, hands, colors etc. When he is older he'll enjoy it from a different perspective. But I am really glad this book offers a new illustration style for him to explore and appreciate even at this age.

This is a children's book, so some of the more unpleasant episodes in Louise Bourgeoise's life are not mentioned. Pictures are nice. I learned about textile work she did in the last part of her life.

Our daughter in Belgium sent me a link to see this book. I had to order it. It is beautifully written and illustrated. Wonderful book to share with everyone, not only children.

this is a beautifully illustrated and inspiring book of a fascinating woman artist

beautiful book.

I read this book at Bart's Books in Ojai, CA. I don't know why I didn't buy it, but regretted it later, and I don't live there. So I just ordered this and had it sent to my friend. It is illustrated beautifully, and the beautiful story is based on a French woman who actually lived.

Gorgeous book and lovely language. My six-year-old who is a high level reader still adores picture books, and I'm always trying to find ones that are substantive and educational. Neither of us knew a thing about Louise, but this book was a great entry. Highly recommended!

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