Finding Spring by Carin Berger

Book Synopsis: Finding Spring by Carin Berger is a charming story of a little bear cub named Maurice that cannot wait for spring to arrive. Instead of hibernating, he heads outside into the snowy woods and tries to find spring. With his friends’ help, he brings home a piece of what he thinks is “spring” to share with his family and friends. This beautifully illustrated story celebrates friendship, curiosity and discovery.

A recorded reading of this book is available here.

Connection to Iowa History
Bears may not be a common sight in Iowa anymore, but black bears are native to the state. Black bears were found all over the Midwest before Iowa became a state in 1846. As more people arrived in the state, black bears became extirpated which means they could no longer survive in Iowa. Between 2002 and 2021, there have only been 43 black bears seen in Iowa.

Goldie’s Kids Club Storytime Activity
After reading or listening to the book, create a colorful pinwheel to enjoy outside with the spring breezes.

Instructions (Video Instructions Available)

1. Cut. Using scissors, cut a piece of paper into a five-inch square.

2. Decorate. Using color markers, decorate both sides of the paper. Be creative!

3. Cut. Cut four diagonal lines starting from each of the corners going halfway to the center of the square.

4. Fold. After making the four cuts, you will have eight points on your square. Take one point and fold it to the center of the square. Secure with glue.

5. Repeat. Repeat the last step for every other point around the paper. This should leave four points in the center and four sticking out in the original position.

6. Pin it. Safely insert a push pin through the center of the square on the same side of all the points. Wiggle the push pin around a little to make the hole a little larger. This will help the pinwheel spin later.

7. Attach. Carefully attach the pinwheel to the pencil. Push the pin into the pencil’s eraser.

8. Share! If you would like to share your project with the State Historical Museum of Iowa, please email photos to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with other young historians!

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Instructions continued

9. Questions to Spark Learning
   - What items do you think of when you hear the word "spring?"
   - Maurice is very excited to enjoy spring. What is your favorite season and why?
   - What do you like to do for fun during spring in Iowa?