

## December Literacy/STEAM Activity Grade 1

During the month of December, the first graders began a 3-month author study about Massachusetts' own Jan Brett. Jan Brett lives in Norwell and is the author and illustrator of the New York Times bestselling Gingerbread Friends, The Three Snow Bears, and The Mitten, as well as many other classics.

As a culminating activity for December, the children bridged their knowledge of Ms. Brett's "gingerbread stories" with their morning work STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities where they build, construct, and innovate with unique materials (Foam and straws) and common materials (click bricks, toobs, and Magna-Tiles).

Their project goal was to construct their own gingerbread house keeping in mind some of the images they saw in Jan Brett's books and using the ideas for architecture that they had learned and experimented with during their morning work. They were given a small cardboard cube to act as a frame and they were encouraged to design and build their own house as they saw fit. Their only parameter was that their house must fit on the stabilizing board they were provided with.

As you can see, they are experts and any Gingerbread Baby would have been thrilled to move in to their constructions!

