

Pen the Tale, Oogie  
Karen J. Moore  
Illustrated by Doug Hansen  
Teacher Resources by Kathleen Gorman

Oogie, the huge gentle bear, lives in the forest with many animal friends, whom he entertains with wonderful, whimsical stories. But he has a problem. Winter is coming and as we all know, bears have to go into their long winter sleep. How will his forest friends get along without Oogie stories all winter long? The bear's friend, Mr. Fox, has an idea—write them down! But can Oogie do it? After a terrible bout of writer's block, he gives it a very good try. How about a story of a family of bears that receive an unwanted human visitor? "Rejected," say Mr. Fox. "It's been done!" A tale of a honey-loving bear and his woodsy friends? Or a traveling bear with a yellow hat? "Rejected!" Finally, Mr. Fox has a winning suggestion: write from the heart! After a brief doze, Oogie does just that, penning tales about a raccoon, a heroic chipmunk, even "scary stories to keep them awake at night." At last, Mr. Fox gives Oogie the word he has been waiting for. "Accepted!" Now, finally, can Oogie settle down for a winter sleep? Moore has written a wonderful tale full of whimsy, one that will appeal to non- or young readers as well as adult readers who may be (aren't we all?) hopeful authors. Doug Hansen's well-thought-out, colorful illustrations couldn't be more charming and make this book a must-have that will become a family treasure. (I've been a fan of Hansen since his "Ronnie Ray Gun" comics in California State University's "Daily Collegian" back in the '70's!) The book's teaching resources are a big plus. Well recommended.

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