

## A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan library programs as well as activities for family time, day care, or the classroom.

Meet Cincinnati illustrator C. F. Payne, whose artwork has been featured in books, on magazine covers, and even on postage stamps, and New Jersey-based author Sue Macy, whose books for young readers focus on pioneering women.

Engage children in conversations and activities that explore courage, perseverance, and equality.

Explore fun activities that align with Ohio's Learning Standards for kindergarten through grade 3.

# Miss Mary Reporting The True Story of Sportswriter Mary Garber

By Sue Macy (author)  
and C. F. Payne (illustrator)



## About the Book

While sitting in the bleachers of a Soap Box Derby in the 1950s, two African American boys had the following exchange: "Do you see that lady down there on the field?" asked one boy. "That's Miss Mary Garber. And she doesn't care who you are, or where you're from, or what you are. If you do something, she's going to write about you."

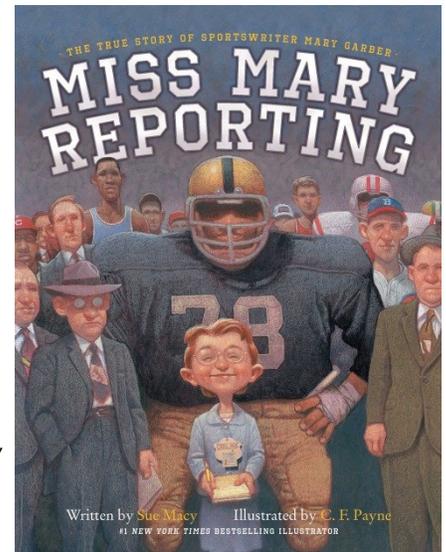
Mary Garber was a pioneering sports journalist at a time when women were rarely a part of the newspaper business. Women weren't even allowed to sit in the press boxes at sporting events, so Mary was forced to sit with the coaches' wives. But that didn't stop her.

At a time when African American sports were not routinely covered, Mary went to the games and wrote about them. Garber was a sportswriter for fifty-six years and was the first woman to receive the Associated Press Sports Editors' Red Smith Award, presented for major contributions in sports journalism. And now, every year the Association of Women in Sports Media presents the Mary Garber Pioneer Award in her honor to a role model for women in sports media.

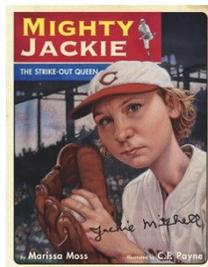
Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2016. ISBN 9781481401203. Ages 5-8.

Leveled Reading: AR Points 0.5. ATOS Book Level 5.2. NC910 Lexile.  
[www.simonandschuster.net/books/Miss-Mary-Reporting](http://www.simonandschuster.net/books/Miss-Mary-Reporting)

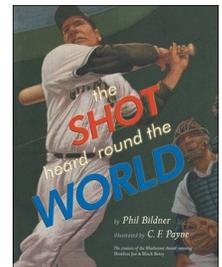
Available as an eBook through the Ohio Digital Library: [ohiodigitallibrary.com](http://ohiodigitallibrary.com)



Permission to use book jacket images and book description granted by Simon & Schuster.



C. F. Payne has illustrated several sports biographies for young readers, including **Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen** by Marissa Moss and **The Shot Heard 'Round the World** by Phil Bildner.





Illustrator biography courtesy Simon & Schuster; photo courtesy Ohioana Library; used with permission.

## About the Illustrator

C. F. Payne has illustrated more than a dozen picture books, including the *New York Times* bestselling ***Mouseonaut*** by astronaut Mark Kelly, the Texas Bluebonnet winner ***Shoeless Joe & Black Betsy***, written by Phil Bildner, and the *New York Times* bestsellers ***The Remarkable Farkle McBride*** and ***Micawber***, both by John Lithgow. He taught at the Columbus College of Art and Design for more than fifteen years before becoming the director of the MFA Illustration program at the Hartford Art School. C. F. Payne lives with his wife and children in Cincinnati.

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## Illustrator Resources

### C. F. Payne's official website

[www.cfpayne.com](http://www.cfpayne.com)

### Society of Illustrators: C. F. Payne

[www.societyillustrators.org/c-f-payne](http://www.societyillustrators.org/c-f-payne)

Payne is a 2018 inductee to the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame.

### For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

Contact [author.appearances@simonandschuster.com](mailto:author.appearances@simonandschuster.com).

**“Jackie [Robinson] became a role model for Mary. She was inspired by his quiet dignity in the face of taunts and jeers from people who couldn't accept a black man in the major leagues... Mary had to endure her own share of slights and struggles.”**

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## Talk About It!

*Share these questions with children to increase comprehension and spark creativity.*

- Mary Garber shared her love of sports with her father. Is there a favorite activity you love to do with your family or friends?
- What things does Mary do at the beginning of the book that are different from her sisters and other girls her age? How do you think she felt about being different? What are some good things about being different?
- How do Mary's childhood experiences relate to the career she chose as an adult? Why do you think the author included these scenes from Mary's childhood?
- When Mary reported on her first college football game, another spectator saw that she needed help and told her who the players were. How did Mary help other people during her career as a reporter? What are some ways you can help people at home, at school, or in your neighborhood?
- Mary knew early on that she wanted to be a newspaper reporter. Is there something special you want to do? What is it? What steps can you take to help you reach your goal?
- Mary inspired other women to become sports reporters, and also inspired the young athletes she wrote about to keep trying. Do you think Mary was a hero? Is there someone who inspires you or whom you think is a hero? Who is it, and why are they a hero to you?

## About the Author

Sue Macy is the acclaimed author of many books for young readers, among them the award-winning ***Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom; Basketball Belles: How Two Teams and One Scrappy Player Put Women's Hoops on the Map***; and ***Bylines: A Photobiography of Nellie Bly***. She grew up in New Jersey, graduated from Princeton University, and worked for sixteen years as an editor at Scholastic. Sue Macy lives in Englewood, New Jersey. Read her extended biography on her website: [www.suemacy.com/bio](http://www.suemacy.com/bio).



Author photo and biography courtesy Simon & Schuster. Additional biographical information courtesy Sue Macy. Used with permission.

## Author Resources

### Sue Macy's official website

[www.suemacy.com](http://www.suemacy.com)

### Girls with Grit! Interview with Sue Macy

[www.heatherlangbooks.com/blog/2016/3/8/7ut2nwzr55x8sujxadmt80cv9j4yga](http://www.heatherlangbooks.com/blog/2016/3/8/7ut2nwzr55x8sujxadmt80cv9j4yga)

Fellow children's nonfiction author Heather Lang interviews Sue Macy about ***Miss Mary Reporting***.

### Q&A with Sue Macy from Kid Lit Takeaways

[www.kidlittakeaways.com/blog/archives/03-2016](http://www.kidlittakeaways.com/blog/archives/03-2016)

### For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

Contact [author.appearances@simonandschuster.com](mailto:author.appearances@simonandschuster.com).

## Learn and Have Fun!

*Ideas for extending the experience of reading and sharing ***Miss Mary Reporting***.*

When Mary was young, she created her own newspaper to share family news with her grandparents. Have children work as a class to create a print or digital class newspaper. What important things are happening in the class or in the school? Are there events coming up that people should know about? Have children write articles for the newspaper and include illustrations or photos. Remind them to give their newspaper a name. Encourage children to share the finished newspaper with friends, family members, or other classes at your school. This activity can be adapted for the public library as part of a weekly or occasional program series.

Many of Sue Macy's books focus on pioneering women in sports, including ***A Whole New Ball Game: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League***. Using information on the AAGPBL website ([www.aagpbl.org](http://www.aagpbl.org)) or online resources available to students through INFOhio ([infohio.org](http://infohio.org)) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library ([ohioweblibrary.org](http://ohioweblibrary.org)), have children research the AAGPBL or another pioneer (in any field) of their choice. Invite students to share their findings by writing a short paper, creating a poster, or giving a digital presentation.

The final pages of ***Miss Mary Reporting*** show a Soap Box Derby race, which was one of the many sports and activities Mary Garber covered during her career. The All-American Soap Box Derby was founded in 1933 by a newspaper reporter in Dayton, Ohio, who later moved to Akron, where the world championship races are held each year. Find out about the championship races and other Soap Box Derby events taking place at Derby Downs in Akron: [www.soapboxderby.org](http://www.soapboxderby.org). Share images of Soap Box Derby cars (including cars from the first Soap Box Derby at [www.libraries.wright.edu/community/outofthebox/2015/07/09/soap-box-derby/](http://www.libraries.wright.edu/community/outofthebox/2015/07/09/soap-box-derby/)), and tell children that the cars do not have engines, but are raced downhill. Then have children draw their own Soap Box Derby car.

## Tie It In!

Using this book with Ohio's Learning Standards.

**Educators:** Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards also apply. These activities using **Miss Mary Reporting** align with Ohio's Learning Standards for Kindergarten – Grade 3.

**Librarians, parents, and others:** These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov). From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Learning in Ohio."

**These activities are also great for library programs, family time, and playgroups.**

### English Language Arts

**Reading: Craft and Structure.** After reading the book, ask children to share words that were unfamiliar to them. Make a list of these words, and invite children to share what they think the words mean and why. Then have children find the words in a print or online dictionary. Compare their ideas to the word definitions. Then use words from the children's list to discuss context clues, roots, affixes, or other strategies that can give clues to word meanings.

**Reading: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas.** Display the cover of **Miss Mary Reporting** and ask children: Based on the cover, what do you think this book is about? Have them explain their opinions using details from the cover art. After reading the book, invite children to talk about their favorite illustration. What do they like about it? How do the text and illustration work together to tell the story? Does the illustration give information about the story that isn't in the text?

### Fine Arts

**Visual Arts: Producing/Performing and Responding/Reflecting.** C. F. Payne's artwork has appeared on everything from buildings to postage stamps. Have children design a postage stamp featuring Mary Garber or another person they admire. For inspiration, visit the People & Culture page of Arago, the database of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum: [arago.si.edu/exhibits\\_cat\\_3.html](http://arago.si.edu/exhibits_cat_3.html). Each child should decide what media they will use, what symbols or other images they will include, and why. Have the children create their designs on full-size sheets of paper. Invite them to share their finished design with a classmate and discuss their choices.

### Social Studies

**Historical Thinking and Skills.** To learn about Mary Garber, author Sue Macy read articles written by and about Mary and talked to people who knew her. Have children research a historical person or event in their family or town. The person or event can be from recent history or from long ago. Assist them to decide which sources they will use to learn about their subject. Then have them write a short biography of the person or a description of the event.

### Social and Emotional Development

**Self-Awareness and Social Awareness.** Mary Garber was inspired by Jackie Robinson's "quiet dignity" and courage. Ask children: How were Mary and Jackie alike? How do you think Jackie felt when people taunted him? How do you think Mary felt when she was kept out of the press box and the locker room? Discuss things Mary did to help others feel included, such as covering sports in African American schools as well as white schools and reporting on all kinds of sports and activities. Ask children: Have you ever felt left out? What are some things you can do to help others feel welcome and included? Invite children to draw or list examples for a class display.

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: [library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro).

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STATE  LIBRARY OF OHIO

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