

# The Giant Hug by Sandra Horning / illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev

When Owen the pig decides to send a hug to his grandmother, a mere drawing of one just won't do. At the post office, he gives the clerk Granny's address along with an affectionate embrace. That hug is passed from postal employee to pilot to driver to mail deliverer as it travels cross-country, inadvertently bringing cheer and a little extra caring into the workers' lives. In the satisfying ending, Granny sends a kiss back to Owen by bussing her mail carrier. As readers follow the hug's progress, they learn about the path a letter takes and the individuals involved in getting it from sender to receiver. The pen-and-watercolor illustrations are filled with warm colors. The expressions on the characters' faces put one in mind of Richard Scarry's artwork, although the animals here are much larger. While some of the more subtle reactions and embarrassment evinced by the huggers may pass right over children's heads, the reactions of the recipients will delight them.... Marge Loch-Wouters - School Library Journal

- Reading level: Ages 4-8
- Hardcover: 40 pages
- Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (January 11, 2005)
- ISBN-10: 0375824774

## Other books about mail and/or the post office

Jolly Postman – Allan and Janet Ahlberg  
A Visit To The Post Office - Sandra Ziegler  
What the Mailman Brought - Carolyn Craven (illustrated by Tomie dePaola)  
Here Comes Mr. Eventoff With The Mail - Alice K. Flanagan  
Send It! - Don Carter  
Good-bye, Curtis - Kevin Henkes  
Here Comes the Mail - Gloria Skurzynski  
Dear Bear - Joanna Harrison  
Mr. Griggs' Work - Cynthia Rylant  
The Post Office Book: Mail and How It Moves - Gail Gibbons  
Dear Mr. Blueberry - Simon James  
Tortoise Brings The Mail - Dee Lillegard  
Letter to Amy - Ezra Jack Keats  
Where Does The Mail Go? - Tim and Julie Nyberg  
Mailing May - Michael O. Tunnell  
Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch - Eileen Spinelli  
Dear Brother - Frank Asch  
Delphine - Molly Bang  
Special Delivery - Betty Brandt (history of US postal service)



## Songs & Fingerplays (authors unknown)

Mail Carrier Song - Sung to "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean"

I get to sort the mail,  
Then carry it to your home.  
The mail comes from all over,  
Like New York, Paris, and Rome.  
Mail, mail, mail, mail,  
I love to deliver the mail, mail, mail.  
Mail, Mail, Mail, Mail,  
I love to deliver the mail.

In His Mail Truck (Sung to: "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain")

He'll be coming in his mail truck when he comes,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck when he comes,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck when he comes.

He'll be wearing his blue uniform.....  
He'll be bringing a package for me.....  
He'll bring mail for mom and dad.....  
He'll pick up letters from our mailbox....

## The Mail Carrier's Song - Sung to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Write, write, write your cards,  
And lots of letters, too.  
I will bring them to your friends,  
And they will write back soon.

## I'm a Letter Carrier - Sung to "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a letter carrier, on my way. (walk in place)  
Here is my suit, it's blue and grey. (point to clothes and head)  
When I come to your house, every day, (point with index finger)  
I leave the mail, but I can't stay. (point to self)

## In His Mail Truck (Sung to: "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain")

He'll be coming in his mail truck when he comes,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck when he comes,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck,  
He'll be coming in his mail truck when he comes.

He'll be wearing his blue uniform.....  
He'll be bringing a package for me.....  
He'll bring mail for mom and dad.....  
He'll pick up letters from our mailbox....

## The Mailbox Poem

I went to mail a letter and slid right in the box  
All that you could see of me were my tennis shoes and socks.  
I self addressed my elbow and air-mail stamped my knee.  
Soon I would be ready for the next delivery.  
I folded like an envelope and in a day or so. . .  
I'll go with all the letters to Japan or Mexico

## **Arts & Crafts**

### Mail Carrier Pouch

Use brown construction paper and yarn to make mail pouches. Punch out and lace the "pouch".

### Mailbag

Use large grocery bags cut in half. Use the top to cut out a wide shoulder strap. Adjust and staple to each side of the bag. These can be decorated with US mail images from Google.

### Paper mail truck

Use a 4 x 12 white rectangle for the bottom of the truck. Take another one, but lop off the corner for the windshield. Glue them together, add a 1 x 12 red stripe across the middle, and add wheels and a pre-printed U.S. mail label.

## **Field Trip to the Post Office**

Ask parents to send in self-addressed, stamped envelopes. Have each child draw a picture of him/her hugging and put it into his or her envelope. Take a field trip to the post office. Have children mail their "hugging letters" to their parents.

## **Snacks**

### Graham Crackers in White Envelopes

Give each child a "special delivery" by placing a graham cracker in a white envelope. Let them open the envelope and taste the treat.

## **Additional Resources**

[http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/mail\\_carrier.htm](http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/mail_carrier.htm) - preschool/kinder materials

[http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/educators/4b\\_curriculum.html](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/educators/4b_curriculum.html) - National Postal Museum's POSTAL PACK curriculum guide

Hail To Mail - Reading Rainbow Episode #107