Mr. George Baker is a "drummer man." Collaborate with the music teacher to learn about drums and famous drummers. Look at different kinds of drums and how they are played (with fingertips, drumsticks, heel of one's hand, etc.). Listen to recordings and/or watch video of drummers performing.

Have partners work together to figure out a rhythm that involves an arrangement of hand claps, foot taps, table taps, and the like, and teach it to the rest of the class.

Check the neighborhood or community for long-time family businesses. Arrange a visit and indicate that you would like for the owners to talk with the students about how the knowledge of their business has been passed through the generations.

Enlist the aid of the library media specialist and have students do research on individuals who are known for their achievements well into their later years. Subjects might include the following people: Grandma Moses, Bob Hope, Marian Anderson, George Washington Carver, Helen Keller, Benjamin Franklin, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Jimmy Carter, Mary Cassatt, Thomas Edison, Duke Ellington, and others. The focus of the research should be on the accomplishments of the person.

Collaborate with the physical education teacher in a dance activity. Divide the class into small groups and have each group create a short, simple dance routine. Allow ample time for practice and then have the groups teach their dance to their classmates.

The first person narration of Mr. George Baker is an excellent example of writer's voice. Have students write a brief description of an elderly friend or neighbor using details about what the person looks like, how the person dresses, and something she/he does well, similar to what Harry writes about George. They might start their descriptions the way Harry starts his: "See this (man/woman)? That's _______________."

Extend invitations to elderly family members or friends of the students to visit the classroom. Find out any special talents and interests these people might have and invite them to share with the students. For example, a visiting friend might: teach a craft, share a hobby or collection, play a musical instrument, tell about her/his job, cook with the children, tell stories, read to students, and many other activities.

Arrange a field trip to a baker so students may observe how desserts are prepared.

Enlist students in compiling a "Top Ten Books Every Child Should Read" for the school. Discuss with students what the criteria might be for inclusion on the list, e.g. a good story (ask them to elaborate on what makes a
story “good”), beautiful illustrations, likable characters, appeal to both girls and boys, a long-lasting favorite, etc. Have them decide how they will solicit nominations for the list from other classrooms in the building. They might do an intercom announcement, send an e-mail to each room, and/or write a letter to each class, briefly mentioning the criteria and asking for three titles of books that each class thinks should be on the list. Once the nominations are in, students can compile the Top Ten list. Arrange to display the ten books in the library media center, a central hallway, or another prominent place in the building. Send a copy of the list to the public library and local newspaper.

RELATED THEMES:
- dance
- cooking
- friendships

RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:
- Program #93 Mrs. Katz and Tush
- Program #118 How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World
- Program # 55 Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Born in New York City and raised on Long Island, Amy Hest aspired to be a writer from an early age, but “I never thought my life was exciting enough for a writer,” she says. Her love for books, however, led her to become a children’s librarian and later to work in children’s book publishing. All of this time she was writing and now has more than 30 books published, including Reading Rainbow feature book, The Purple Coat. Amy lives in New York with her family.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR:
Jon J. Muth was a well-known comic book artist for 20 years before he became a children’s book illustrator. Jon attributes the success of his work to his ability “to make myself small and run around inside my stories, to think like a child.” He views his illustrations as more than “decoration,” and considers the connection between words and pictures most important. Jon lives in upstate New York.

BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:
- GRANDFATHER COUNTS
  by Andrea Cheng, illus. by Ange Zhang (Lee & Low)
- THE MUSIC IN DERRICK’S HEART
  by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert, illus. by Colin Bootman (Holiday House)

A BIRD ABOUT TO SING
by Laura Nyman Montenegro (Houghton Mifflin)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:
- PAPA’S MARK
  by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert, illus. by Colin Bootman (Holiday House)
- JEREMIAH LEARNS TO READ
  by Jo Ellen Bogart, illus. by Laura Fernandez & Rick Jacobson (Orchard)
- THE WEDNESDAY SURPRISE
  by Eve Bunting, illus. by Donald Carrick (Clarion)
- ABUELA’S WEAVE
  by Omar S. Castaneda, illus. by Enrique O. Sanchez (Lee & Low)
- MISS TIZZY
  by Libba Moore Gray, illus. by Jada Rowland (Simon & Schuster)
- A STORY FOR BEAR
  by Dennis Haseley, illus. by Jim LaMarche (Harcourt)
- PAPA’S STORIES
  by Dolores Johnson (Macmillan)
- SATURDAYS AND TEACAKES
  by Lester L. Laminack, illus. by Chris Soentpriet (Peachtree)
- THE PIANO
  by William Miller, illus. by Susan Keeter (Lee & Low)
- TOMÁS AND THE LIBRARY LADY
  by Pat Mora, illus. by Raul Colón (Knopf)
- THE HARD-TIMES JAR
  by Ethel Footman Smothers, illus. by John Holyfield (Farrar Straus Giroux)
- GRANDMA’S RECORDS
  by Eric Velasquez (Walker)
George Baker (born Johannes "Hans" Bouwens, 8 December 1944) is a Dutch singer and songwriter who, with his band George Baker Selection, scored two international hits in the 1970s, "Paloma Blanca" and "Little Green Bag." He became a solo artist after 1989. "Little Green Bag" was used as the opening soundtrack for the movie Reservoir Dogs. Bouwens was born near the end of World War II on 8 December 1944 as the son of a single mother on the Gravenstraat in Hoorn, at or near the location where Jan