

# RAISIN

## Story Hour Kit



RAISIN, the Littlest Cow

A picture book from Miriam Busch & Larry Day

Image © Larry Day

# RAISIN, The Littlest Cow: Story Hour Kit

## ABOUT THE KIT

This kit was designed for librarians, educators, and booksellers, and for families hosting playgroups, parties, or simply looking for an engaging read aloud. Best for ages 3-8.

While not all of your readers know what it is like to suddenly become an older sibling, they all know the frustration of wanting something from a distracted adult or what it's like to feel left out. Raisin, the littlest cow, is experiencing these familiar frustrations. However, she does not despair; she comes up with her own solution.

With this kit, your readers can recreate Raisin's moment of ingenuity and independence with a small cut-out of Raisin. Your readers may be amused and intrigued by Raisin's list making. With this kit, you can encourage your readers to express their likes and dislikes in list form, just like the littlest cow.

### The kit contains:

- Poster and copy to share your event
- Suggested preparation
- Raisin Cut-out
- Reproducible lists

## ABOUT THE BOOK

### RAISIN, the Littlest Cow

By Miriam Busch & Larry Day

ISBN-13: 9780062427632

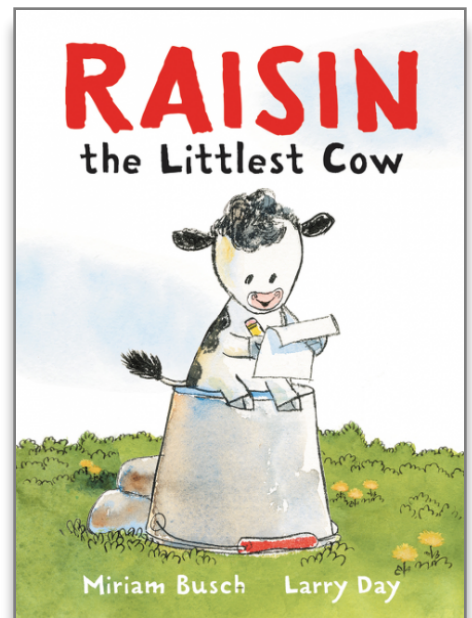
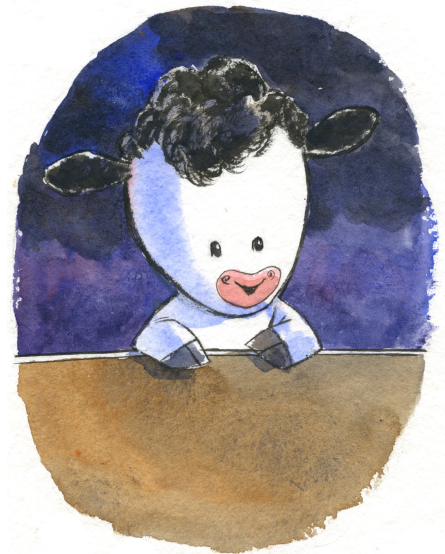
Published by Balzer + Bray / HarperCollins

Age Range: 4 - 8 Years

Raisin loves being the littlest cow in the herd. All the other cows dote on her, and life is grand.

But one day, Raisin's mother has a new little cow . . . one who is even smaller than Raisin. And suddenly everything changes. Raisin has never liked change, and this one is the worst. Now no one pays attention to her, the new baby smells funny, and even the weather won't cooperate.

But then, when absolutely everything is going wrong, Raisin discovers a change in herself—one that delights the entire herd. Even (and especially!) the new baby.



Based on the picture book **RAISIN, the Littlest Cow** by Miriam Busch & Larry Day (Balzer + Bray)

All images © Larry Day

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## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“Written with empathy, a bit of drama, and touches of humor...offers a reassuring new slant on a timeless story.” —*Booklist*

“This is a successful book on many levels. The illustrations are appealing, and the characters are full of expression. This title will be helpful to parents who are introducing a new baby into a family and have young ones who might be having a difficult time adjusting to the situation. This story will also be beneficial for helping children who have a hard time dealing with change. VERDICT An appealing read-aloud for one-on-one and small group sharing; ideal for medium to large collections.”

—*School Library Journal*

“... Raisin's feelings were hurt. She felt left out and was angry. Raisin felt this change in her life was dreadful, or was it? Charming in every way, **Raisin the Littlest Cow** provides a strong message about misconceptions, adapting to change and growing from both.”

—Kendal Rautzhan, *Reading Eagle*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Miriam Busch earned her MFA in writing for children and young adults from Hamline University. She loves pie and elephants and trees and whales and stories of all sorts. You can visit her at [www.miriambuschauthor.com](http://www.miriambuschauthor.com).

Larry Day is the illustrator of more than twenty picture books, a painter of fine art, and a storyboard artist/art director for advertising agencies. He is the recipient of many state awards for his books, as well as three gold medals from the Society of Illustrators. Larry also won the Golden Kite Award for best illustrated picture book (**Not Afraid of Dogs**). Find him online at [www.larrydayillustration.com](http://www.larrydayillustration.com).

Larry and Miriam Busch collaborated on the picture book **Lion, Lion**, which was named an Illinois Reads selection, an NPR Best selection, an Indie Next Best selection, a Junior Library Guild selection, and a Bank Street College Best Book of the Year. They live in the Midwest.

## PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand program or classroom activity! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

\_\_\_ Locate a copy of the picture book **Raisin, the Littlest Cow** by Miriam Busch & Larry Day (Balzer + Bray).

## Sharing the Event

\_\_\_ There are three fairly adorable Raisin social media images that can help promote your event. Look for them by searching “raisin” at [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com).

Based on the picture book **RAISIN, the Littlest Cow** by Miriam Busch & Larry Day (Balzer + Bray)

All images © Larry Day

# RAISIN, The Littlest Cow: Story Hour Kit

## Sharing the Event (cont.)

\_\_\_ There is an equally grand book trailer available to help promote your event at: <https://youtu.be/-EWJZ38dh7M> or by searching “raisin” at CuriousCityDPW.com.

\_\_\_ If you list your events in newsletters and/or online calendars, here is some text that may help with those listings:

Everyone feels left out once in a while. Raisin, the Littlest Cow, certainly does. Instead of boosting her up to see her favorite drive-in movie over the fence, the other cows are distracted by a newborn cow *even littler* than Raisin. Will Raisin add this incident to her “Yuck!” list or discover a way to boost *herself* up? We’ll be reading the picture book **Raisin, the Littlest Cow** by Miriam Busch & Larry Day (Balzer + Bray) and making friends with Raisin herself. We might even make a “Yuck!” list of our very own! All welcome, but best for ages 3-8.

\_\_\_ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 7), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster on your computer, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for “raisin” at CuriousCityDPW.com and navigate to the Story Hour Kit listing. The fonts on the poster are Baskerville and **HandySans**.

## Boosting Up Raisin

As you will see in the book, the cow Raisin needs a little time alone at the fence to sort out her feelings about having a new baby brother. She does, though, expect someone to come looking for her! When no one comes, Raisin learns that she can boost herself up onto a bucket to see what she wants to see.

Your readers know what it is like to stomp off alone, but also to want someone to come to check on them. You can invite your readers to check up on Raisin and give her the bucket that will boost her up. How?

\_\_\_ Print the Raisins on page 8 on regular or card stock paper. Print enough so that each reader can have a Raisin.

\_\_\_ Cut along the dashed line and then fold Raisin along the solid lines. The top line gets folded inward (printed side to printed side). The bottom line gets folded backwards (blank side to blank side). Raisin should now sit nicely on a bookshelf or on top of a bucket!



# RAISIN, The Littlest Cow: Story Hour Kit

## Boosting Up Raisin (cont.)

\_\_\_ There is a silver paper cup at Oriental Trading Company that is just the size and color of Raisin's bucket. Look for "Metallic Silver Paper Cups." They are about \$3 for 24 cups. Buy enough so that each reader has one.

\_\_\_ Set aside tape or glue sticks for children to attach Raisin to her bucket. A roll of tape behind her hooves affixes her nicely to her bucket.

## Making Lists with Raisin

As you can see on the cover and throughout the pages, Raisin is a list maker. In the book she has a list of "my favorite things," "yuck!" and "places to run away to." Whether your readers are writing on their own or not, they can create their own lists. How?

\_\_\_ Print the Yuck! / Favorites lists on page 9. Print enough so that each reader can have one of each. Cut the printed sheet in half vertically.

\_\_\_ Set aside pencils or crayons for list writing.

## DAY OF THE EVENT

\_\_\_ Hide your folded Raisin cut-outs around your space within reach of your readers.

\_\_\_ On your craft table, lay out paper cups, glue, tape, and crayons or pencils.

\_\_\_ On your craft table, lay out piles of Raisin's lists.

\_\_\_ Read aloud the picture book **Raisin, the Littlest Cow** by Miriam Busch & Larry Day (Balzer + Bray).

\_\_\_ Invite readers to talk about Raisin's story by revisiting spreads from the book. You can add dialogue like:

[Showing the 7th spread starting with, "She waited for the movie to begin."]

*What do you think Raisin is feeling in this picture?*

*What is she waiting for?*

*Do the other cows come to boost her up to see the movie?*

*What did Raisin do so she could see the movie?*

[Showing the 8th spread starting with, "Raisin knew what to do."]

*The text says "Raisin knew what to do." What did Raisin do?*

[Showing the 9th spread starting with, "I did it myself."]

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## DAY OF THE EVENT (cont.)

*Raisin says, “I did it myself!” Were you happy that Raisin boosted herself up?*

*What can you do by yourself that you are proud of?*

\_\_\_ Invite readers to look for Raisin with dialogue like:

*Can I tell you something? I saw Raisin today right here in this room. She was sitting all by herself making a list. She likes making lists.*

*I think that even though Raisin is sitting alone, she would like to meet kids just like you. Do you want to go find Raisin? Everyone should be able to find a Raisin. Once you find her, come back to the craft table. I have a surprise for Raisin that I think she will like.*

\_\_\_ When readers are back at the craft table, you can draw them in with dialogue like:

[Showing silver paper cup]

*What does this look like?*

*You might look at the cover of **Raisin, the Littlest Cow** to get some ideas.*

*Is this a good present for Raisin? How can you boost her up to sit on the bucket?*

\_\_\_ You can invite readers to make lists with dialogue like:

*What is Raisin doing with her pencil and paper?*

*Would you like to make a list of things you like and things you think are “yuck!” just like Raisin?*

\_\_\_ Send readers home with Raisin, her bucket, and their lists.

\_\_\_ Pull out your list and check off, “Be awesome at story time.”

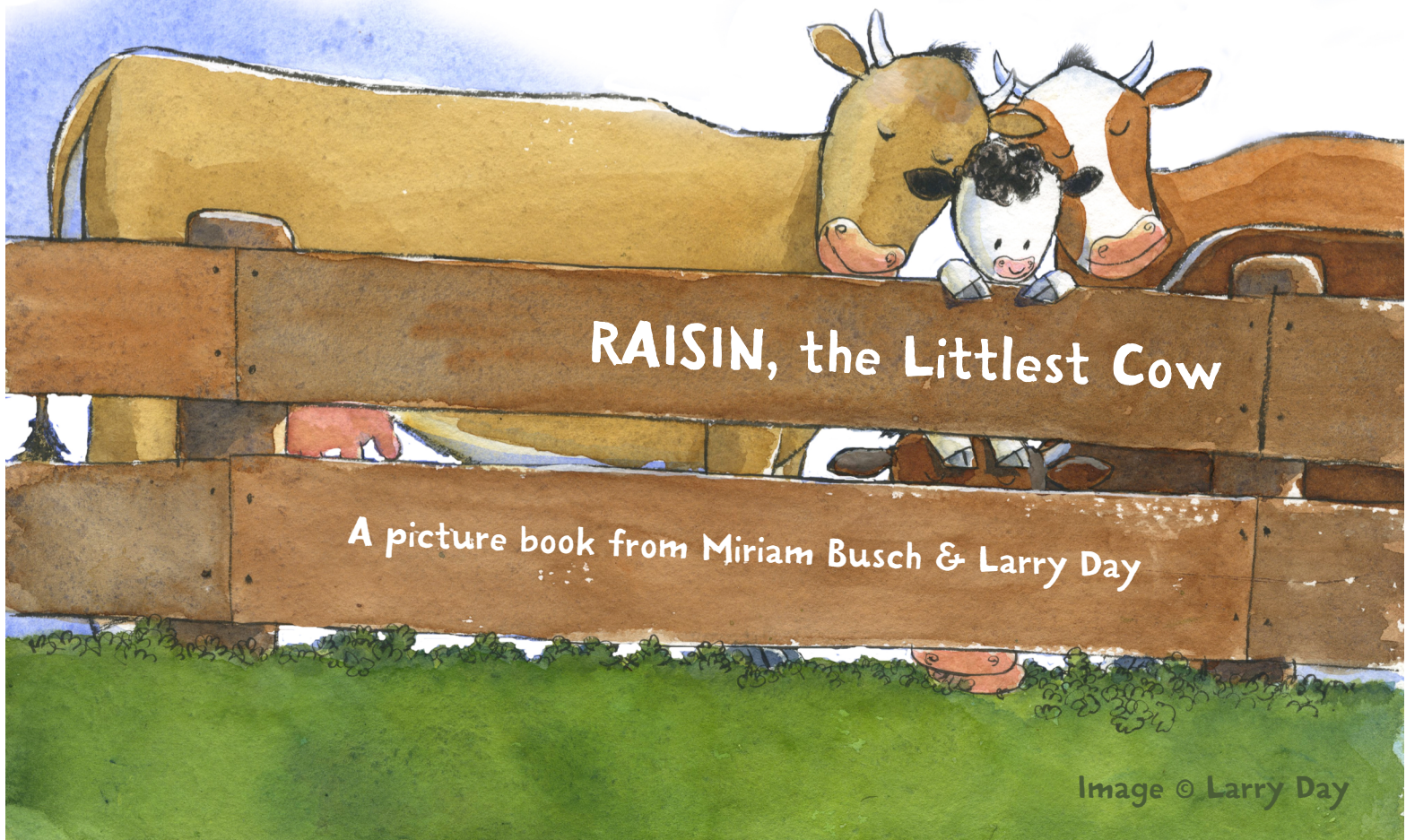
\_\_\_ Be awesome at story time.

## OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children’s literature with play, conversation, and social action. Look for the Story Hour Kit and free downloadable board game for Miriam Busch and Larry Day’s previous picture book collaboration, **Lion, Lion**.

# RAISIN

## Story Time



RAISIN, the Littlest Cow

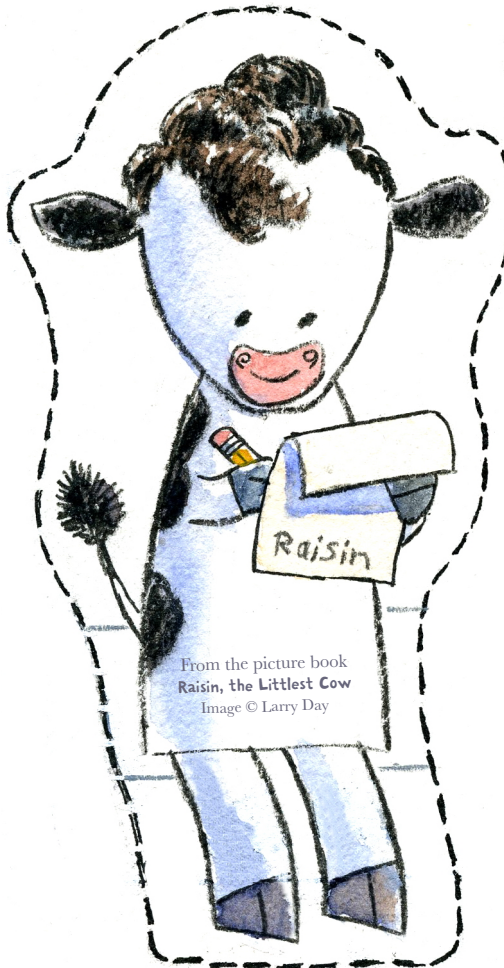
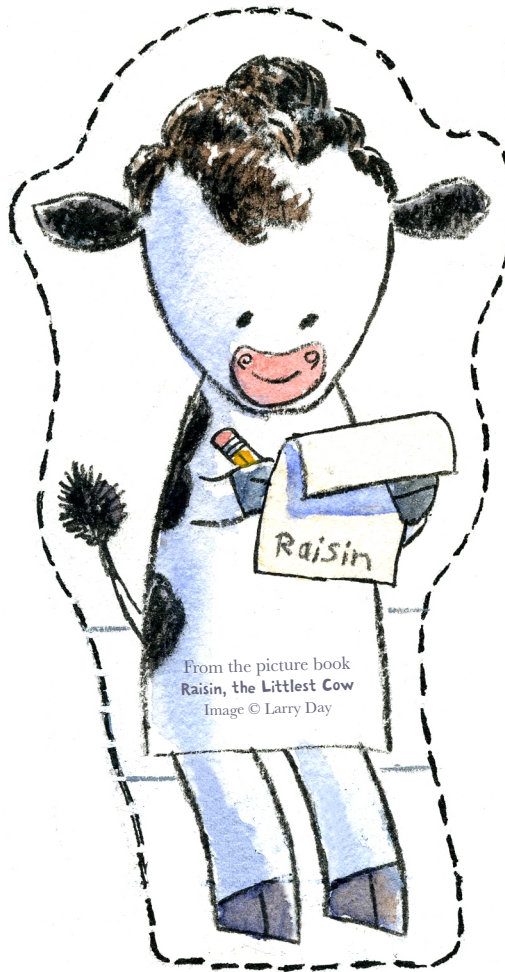
A picture book from Miriam Busch & Larry Day

Image © Larry Day

## RAISIN, the Littlest Cow A Cut-out for Boosting

Want to help boost Raisin onto her bucket so that she can continue her list-making?

- 1) Print this sheet on regular or card stock paper.
- 2) Cut Raisin out along the dashed line.
- 3) Fold Raisin on the solid lines. The top line gets folded inward (printed side to printed side).
- 4) Fold the bottom line backwards (blank side to blank side).
- 5) Raisin should now sit nicely on a bookshelf or on top of a bucket! What makes a good bucket? Any paper cup with a 2"-wide base. A loop of tape behind her hooves attaches her perfectly.





My favorite  
things:

Are you a listmaker like Raisin?  
**RAISIN, the Littlest Cow**  
A book from Miriam Busch & Larry Day  
Balzer + Bray

Yuck!

Are you a listmaker like Raisin?  
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