

*Finding a
Place to
Build a Nest*

Writing Homework:

In Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey, Mrs. Mallard searches for the best possible place to live and to raise her family. She does not want to live where there are foxes in the woods or turtles in the water. She does not want to be around dangerous bicycles or scooters or cars. In the end, Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their eight ducklings settle in Boston's Public Garden where they follow the swan boats, eat peanuts, and swim to the little island to sleep at night.

For homework, write about how you decided to come to live in Boston or Brookline. What were some of your hopes for you and your family? What were some of your worries? Is life in Boston/Brookline how you imagined it would be?

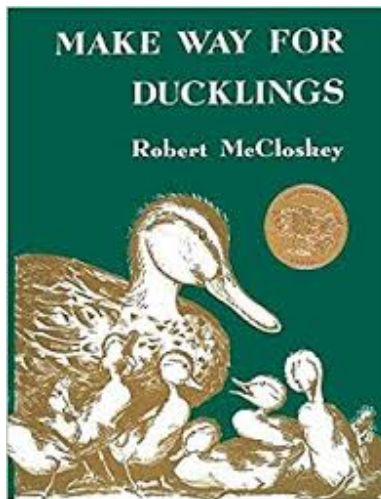
*What makes
a children's
book classic?*

clas·sic /'klasik/
noun

1. a work of art of recognized and established value.

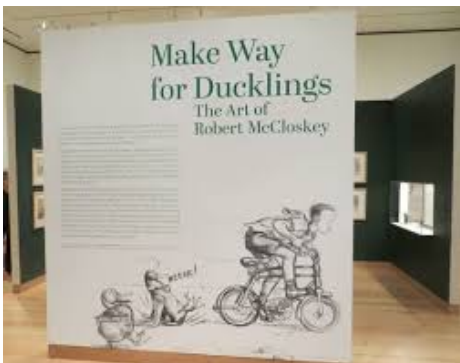
adjective

2. judged over a period of time to be of the highest quality and outstanding of its kind.



Robert McCloskey won the 1942 Caldecott Medal for *Make Way for Ducklings*. The story, set in Boston, Massachusetts, features a mallard pair that nests on an island in the Charles River. After raising eight ducklings on the island, the mother leads them to the Public Garden downtown. A friendly policeman stops traffic to let them cross a busy street. The story soon became a Boston institution. Sculptor Nancy Schön created a bronze statue of Mrs. Mallard and the ducklings in 1987, installed along a walkway between pond and street.^[6] There thousands of children climb them every year and many more people photograph them; the park is also the annual site of a *Make Way for Ducklings* Mother's Day parade, featuring hundreds of children dressed in the costumes of their favorite characters. Since 2003 *Make Way for Ducklings* is the official children's book of Massachusetts.^[7]

The Swan Boats are a fleet of pontoon pleasure boats which have operated in the Public Garden in Boston, Massachusetts since 1877. Robert Paget first created the Swan Boats after seeing the German opera, *Lohengrin* with his wife, Julia Paget. Inspired by the knight's rescue of the damsel by riding a swan across the lake, Paget decided to design the Swan Boats. The Paget Family continues to run the Swan Boats today.



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Art Activity:
Draw a map that tells the story of your journey to Boston. Your map can show places, ideas, people, or emotions... Be creative!