

## The Giant Hug

### General idea:

In *The Giant Hug*, readers follow one piece of mail as it travels from a kid's house to his grandmother's house. Along the way, many different postal workers and vehicles move the mail. Through a dramatic read-aloud of the book, kids learn about mail's journey, identify vehicles, and have fun. At an activity table nearby, kids can tell their own story of how a letter of package moves. Using a blank "comic strip," the kids tell the package's story from first entering the mailbox to delivery!

### Audience:

- Families with younger kids
- Families with young kids are used to "story time" and get excited about flopping down on the floor for a good book. Attention spans are short! Use movement and humor.

### Goal:

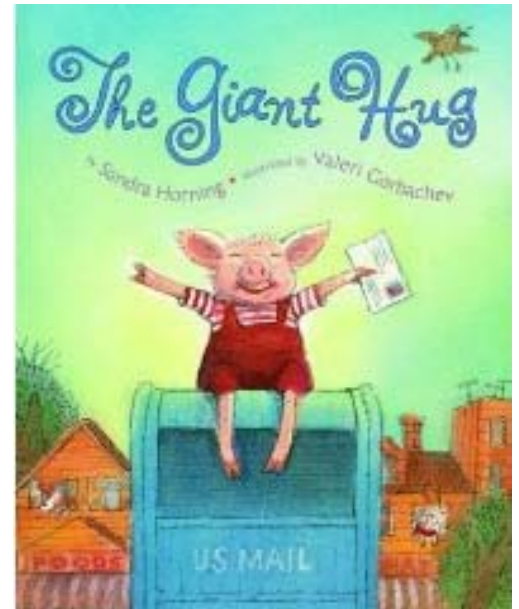
- Realizing that people and vehicles move the mail
- Realizing that the mail moves in many ways

### Materials:

- The Giant Hug
- Props
- Markers
- Paper with three boxes (for the comic strip)

### Checklist:

- Identify points in the book that **connect to the themes** of the festival
- Make connections about the **vehicles** in the book and the vehicles on view in the museum
- Identify good moments to **ask questions, explore illustrations**, etc
- Use **movement** and imaginary props during the story
- Develop quick and easy **instructions** for the "comic strip" activity
- Decide how frequently the team would like to read the book throughout the festival





## What do you need to know?

There are many steps in between sender and recipient:

Many people are involved: Postal clerk, mail sorter, driver to the mail bound for the big city, another truck driver to the airport, the plane pilot, another truck driver from the airport and then the mail carrier.

Many vehicles too: Mail trucks and an airplane for long distances.



**Here are the four steps of mail transportation:**

**Acceptance:** Mail piece enters the mail stream (aka you put your envelope in a collection box)

**Process:** the mail piece is sorted, oriented toward its destination (Sorting units)

**Transportation:** Mail piece moves along with millions of others near its final destination (Airplanes and trucks)

**Delivery:** Mail piece is delivered to its exact destination (aka the letter carrier delivers your letter to its recipient)

## Connections?

**What if you could design your own mail vehicle?** Go visit the Invention Lab!

