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**HELAIINE BECKER TAPS KIDS' HIDDEN SCIENTIST WITH NEW  
MAPLE TREE PRESS BOOK, *SCIENCE ON THE LOOSE***

Helaine Becker's developed a reputation for writing kids books that blend humor with great information and make reviewers, teachers, librarians and parents take notice. Now, the author of the uproariously funny *Mother Goose Unplucked* has an irresistible new book, *Science on the Loose: Amazing Activities and Science Facts You'll Never Believe*, that turns science on end. Teamed with Claudia Davila, who has illustrated several of her most popular titles including *Boredom Blasters* and last year's *Mother Goose Unplucked*, Becker celebrates the wonderful and quirky aspects of science while illustrating basic science principles in a book filled with amazing anecdotes and easy-to-do experiments.

Young readers embark on intriguing adventures while they practice hands-on science and learn fascinating facts. Animal behavior, optics, astronomy, reflexes—it's all here, as kids discover how the world we think we know can trick our senses and challenge our assumptions. The stories of scientists from around the world and the extraordinary—and sometimes offbeat—things they investigate show kids just how surprising and relevant science can be. Bright illustrations and dynamic design keep kids engaged while lively sidebars illuminate the scientific concepts behind each experiment. The activities require no special equipment or unusual ingredients, just simple materials and a bright, curious mind.

*Mother Goose Unplucked: Crazy Comics, Zany Activities, Nutty Facts, and Other Twisted Takes on Childhood Favorites* offers a fun-filled romp through the land of "Happilyeverafter," where Fairy Godmother is an advice columnist, the Big Bad Wolf is wanted for identity theft, and Rapunzel is an insolent tween banished to her room. From Hey Diddle Riddles to Ugly Duckling Origami, Castle Wall Handball to Stump the Troll,

- more -

kids ages 8-12 will enjoy these brain-teasers, tongue-twisters, and funny-bone-tickling challenges inspired by familiar fairy tales and nursery rhymes.

Helaine Becker is a former teacher now relocated from New York to Toronto. Her other books include *Are You Psychic?*, *Funny Business*, *Like a Pro*, and *Secret Agent Y.O.U.*

For 35 years, Maple Tree Press has respected children's intelligence and curiosity by offering bright, inventive books on a wide range of subjects, including nature and the environment, sports, folktales, humor, animals, science, and history. With its diverse list of award-winning books, Maple Tree is a publisher that kids love and parents and teachers trust. To learn more about Maple Tree's outstanding books, visit [www.mapletreepress.com](http://www.mapletreepress.com).

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**Science on the Loose**

Written by Helaine Becker

Illustrated by Claudia Dávila

Published by Maple Tree Press

Ages 8-12 • 64 pages • March 2008

\$22.95 hardcover, \$10.95 paperback

ISBN hardcover: 978-1-897349-18-2

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**Mother Goose Unplucked**

Written by Helaine Becker

Illustrated by Claudia Dávila

Published by Maple Tree Press

Ages 8-12 • 160 pages

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## MAPLE TREE PRESS SCORES AGAIN

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Keltie Thomas blends scientific curiosity with a lively sense of humor in ***How Baseball Works*** and ***How Soccer Works***, the most recent titles in the award-winning “How Sports Work” series from Maple Tree Press. *How Baseball Works* delivers the inside scoop on America’s favorite pastime, while *How Soccer Works* offers kids with soccer fever intriguing information that will help them kick their games into high gear.

These fast-paced reads for kids 8-12 delve into every aspect of each sport. Facts and figures are complemented by colorful, eye-catching illustrations and exciting action photos of professional players past and present. A “Rules and Regs” section and a glossary of terms help kids master the intricacies of these sports.

*How Baseball Works* explains scoring and statistics, gives pointers on injury prevention, and examines the tools of the game—bats, balls, mitts, and more. Specific exercises and drills are given for hitting, running, catching, throwing, and sliding. Anecdotes abound about baseball stars of the past and present, including Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Hank Aaron, Joe DiMaggio, Sammy Sosa, Greg Maddux, and Barry Bonds. Peppered with fascinating facts, *How Baseball Works* even explores the difference between grass and artificial turf, as well as other factors that make each ballpark unique. If a reader wants to know how to throw a winning pitch or find the sweet spot on a bat, it’s all here.

With *How Soccer Works*, readers can also sharpen their game, whether they’re new to the soccer field or can already bend it like Beckham. This lively exploration takes kids from the science behind a stellar pass, curving kick, or perfect header to the stories of

- more-

soccer legends like Mia Hamm and Pelé. *How Soccer Works* invites kids to become well-versed in the history, science, and fun of the world’s most popular sport.

Keltie Thomas is an award-winning children's science writer and editor and an avid sports fan. Her most recent books include *How Basketball Works*, *Blades, Boards & Scooters*, and *Nature Shockers*. She is a former editor of *OWL* magazine.

For 35 years, Maple Tree Press has respected children's intelligence and curiosity by offering bright, inventive books on a wide range of subjects, including animals, sports, folktales, humor, health and fitness, science, and history. With its diverse list of award-winning books, Maple Tree is a publisher that kids love and parents and teachers trust. To learn more about Maple Tree's outstanding books, visit [www.mapletreepress.com](http://www.mapletreepress.com).

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### **How Baseball Works**

Written by Keltie Thomas

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### **How Soccer Works**

Written by Keltie Thomas

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