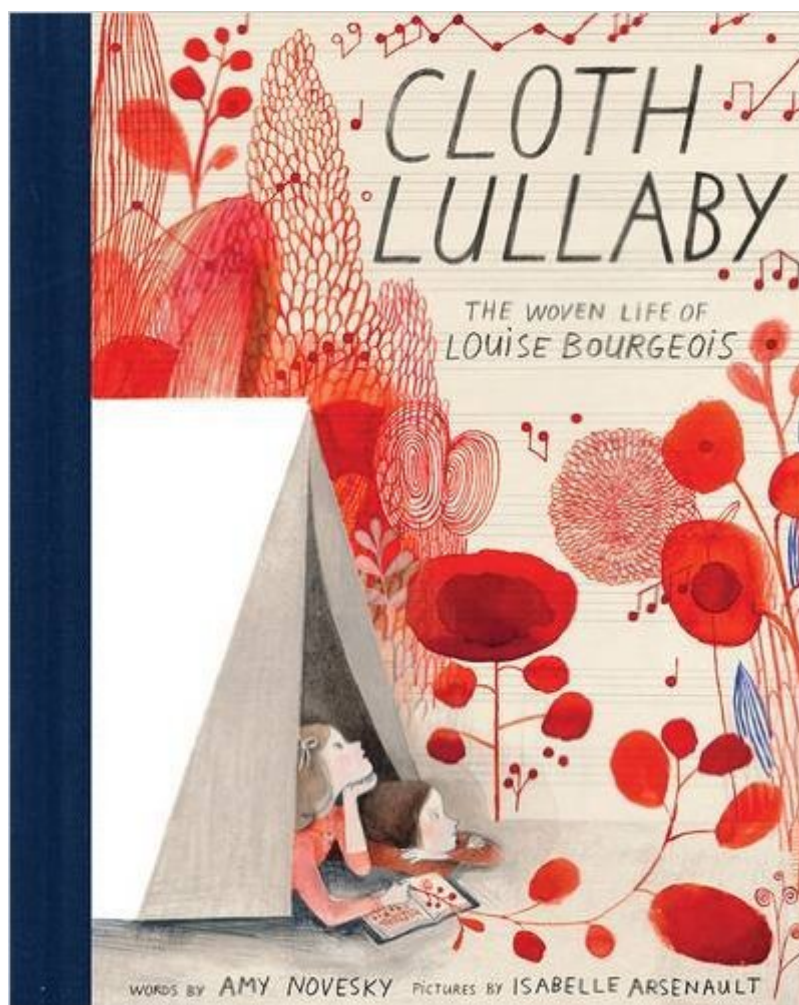


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# Cloth Lullaby: The Woven Life Of Louise Bourgeois



## Synopsis

Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010) was a world-renowned modern artist noted for her sculptures made of wood, steel, stone, and cast rubber. Her most famous spider sculpture, *Maman*, stands more than 30 feet high. Just as spiders spin and repair their webs, Louise's own mother was a weaver of tapestries. Louise spent her childhood in France as an apprentice to her mother before she became a tapestry artist herself. She worked with fabric throughout her career, and this biographical picture book shows how Bourgeois's childhood experiences weaving with her loving, nurturing mother provided the inspiration for her most famous works. With a beautifully nuanced and poetic story, this book stunningly captures the relationship between mother and daughter and illuminates how memories are woven into us all.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (March 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419718819

ISBN-13: 978-1419718816

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.5 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,111 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #11 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art #12 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Sculpture

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

## Customer Reviews

Unique, unusually stunning and creative picture book. Every page is a wonder and joy. Incredible biography of this little known artist. Perfect for classroom use or a child's library.

The illustrations in *CLOTH LULLABY* are both simple and profound and make me want to pull apart the book and frame pages. The story is thorough but not exhausting--just enough to introduce me to Louise Bourgeois and want to know her and other women artists better. An inspiring combination.

Summary: Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010) spent her childhood along the banks of a river in France. Her mother repaired tapestries, and Louise learned the art of weaving from her. Although she studied math at the Sorbonne, Louise ultimately became an artist. After her mother died, she made a giant sculpture of a spider, famous for its weaving, and spiders appeared in a lot of her other works. Later in life, she gathered fabric from many different people and places in her past and created works of art with the different textiles. She continued to create art right up until the time of her death at age 98. End matter includes additional biographical information. 40 pages; grades 2-6. Pros: The illustrations are exquisite and really capture Louise's life and art. The text is almost poetic. Cons: This is not a straightforward biography, and kids may find some of the text difficult to understand. The biographical information at the end is helpful; it may be useful to present it before reading the story.

I am a fiber artist and a lover of children's books and picture books of all kinds. I was excited about this book, but once in my possession it left me strangely cold. The color palette is so limited it is drab. The texture of cloth is not communicated in the drawings at all; they are without depth. The illustrator seems to have made no effort to communicate the tactile interest of textiles. The book left me feeling cheated; I expected to share in the subject's inspiration and vision, but I was disappointed.

Louise grew up alongside a river that wove through her life. Her mother restored tapestries and from age 12, Louise helped too by drawing in the missing bottom edges of tapestries. At her mother's side, Louise learned about weaving and patterns. Louise eventually went to school in Paris and studied mathematics and cosmography at university. While at college, her mother died and Louise turned to art to express her feelings. She created enormous spiders out of metal and stone, naming them "Maman." She took the fabrics of her life and cut them apart, working to put them back together in new ways. It was a tribute to her mother and her childhood expressed in art. Novesky's picture book biography keeps the magic of Bourgeois' childhood intact. The book ends with an image of the artist and one of her spiders as well as a quote that speaks to her never having lost touch with the magic of her childhood. That quality weaves throughout the book where both the river and the restoration work create moments of inspiration and amazement. There is such beauty in the quiet work of restoration as well as the knitting activities of spiders. Readers will immediately understand the connection of wool and web in her art. Arsenault's illustrations

are alight with that same magic and inspiration. In one image of Louise's mother, there is a certain spider-ness there, subtle but also clear as she works with her black wool. All of the illustrations in the book celebrate pattern and weaving. There is a limited palette of reds, blues and grays that evoke the richness of tapestries and the excitement of art. A top pick for picture book biographies, this book pays homage to a female artist that many may not know. Appropriate for ages 5-8.

Love this book. Will be giving it to my 3-year-old granddaughter. Beautiful illustrations.

A lovely book to give to my granddaughter

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