On the hottest night of the summer at our cabin, an odd question flew into my head: “Do animal's have a Santa?”

Then I remembered telling stories with a group of friends. My friend George Beyer told about when he tried to catch Santa with a beartrap in the fireplace.

My advice for finding story ideas? Be ready to capture weird thoughts and listen to the stories your friends tell!

I decorated my book with North American Native Porcupine quill embroidery, which I first saw at the Peabody Museum at Harvard. I began collecting boxes with designs of this work. Porcupine quills are dyed with plant material, bloodroot for red, lichen for yellow and walnut for black, then softened and sewn in intricate patterns. Only a few people know how to craft this beautiful art form.