

# Author closes chapter on library program

By STEVE KOBAK / Hour Staff Writer

Children were invited to make loud barnyard noises and other sound effects during story time at the East Norwalk Library on Saturday.

The sounds were part of a performance by children's author Heather Forest, who tells stories by singing and allowing the audience to participate.

"This is what people did before they had television," said Forest. "They sat around and told stories."

Forest, who teaches storytelling for the library sciences department at Southern Connecticut State University, writes children's books that are based on fables.

The author said she likes to engage the imagination of children during the reading process and asks them to close their eyes and picture portions of her stories.

"Even in the modern world, where children are surrounded by media, it doesn't take much to spark a child's imagination," she said.

During her performance at the library, Forest sang and accompanied herself on guitar. She encouraged the children to sing along with her.

A crowd of 20 children and adults joined Forest in singing and making noises and hand gestures.

Sophi Morales, 3, enjoyed "moo-ing" while Forest read "A Big Quiet House: A Yiddish Folktale from Eastern Europe."

"I'd liked to be a cow," Sophi said.

Nicolas Guzman, 7, liked "the pulling part," in which the children pretended they were trying to pull a turnip out of the ground during Forest's reading of "The Gigantic Turnip."

Forest's reading was the last event in East Norwalk Library's Sensational Summer Series, which also included performances from cartoonist Jerry Craft and Sparky's Puppets.

Stanley Siegel, Executive Director, said similar activities will occur this winter at the East Norwalk Library.

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# Once upon a time ...



*Hour photo / DAVID ESPOSITO*

Three-year-old Julia Savarino interacts with author/storyteller Heather Forest, as Forest reads one of her books to the children at the East Norwalk Library Saturday morning.

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*Hour photo / DAVID ESPOSITO*

Parents and their children listen as author/storyteller Heather Forest reads one of her stories at the East Norwalk Library Saturday morning.