

Whimsical Hats

Lynne Rowe

Barron's Educational Series (Aug 1, 2013)

Softcover \$16.99 (128pp)

978-1-4380-0261-3

Wouldn't your little cupcake get ten times more *awws* and cheek pinches if she actually *looked* like a cupcake? A bold red mushroom cap will have your tot resembling Mario's Toad□the stripy zebra, winking owl, or leggy octopus will add a creative dimension to imaginative play□and the Christmas tree, pumpkin, and snowman will bring extra cheer to the holiday season. Turn heads with any one of the thirty crazy designs in Lynne Rowe's *Whimsical Hats*.

Rowe's detailed instructions make even the most complex pattern easy to follow. Circular designs, ear flaps, and special accessories—namely animal facial features—are clearly explicated, as in the Big Bad Wolf hood: "Cut 4 small triangles of light gray felt slightly smaller than the knitted ear. Stitch 2 triangles together using whip stitch and white thread. Pin to the white front of the ear and stitch in place."

Beginners as well as experienced knitters can enjoy a quick project, as Rowe leads readers through the process of making each hat—and all pieces that go with it—one row at a time. The "Techniques and equipment" section at the end of the book is both a primer for newbies and a refresher for returning knitters. The variety of methods teaches a broad spectrum of knitting basics, just as the variety of styles offers something for every child's personality: meek or wild, sweet or plunderous, sensible or fantastical.

AIMEE JODOIN (Fall 2013)

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