

A DO-IT-YOURSELF THREE PINES EVENT KIT

LOUISE  
PENNY  
KINGDOM  
OF  
THE BLIND

A NOVEL





Dear Bookseller,

Thank you for requesting this preorder kit, and welcome to Three Pines! Included, you'll find everything you need to celebrate the launch of the next book, *Kingdom of the Blind*, in the #1 *New York Times* bestselling Chief Superintendent Gamache series.

We've suggested preorder incentives and a step-by-step guide to hosting your own *Kingdom of the Blind* authorless event, including everything from activities to refreshments to decorations—plus a few door prizes.

We would love to hear stories and see photos from your event. Please share with us via email at [Minotaur@stmartins.com](mailto:Minotaur@stmartins.com), or contact us through social media at @MinotaurBooks on Facebook, @MinotaurBooks on Twitter, and @Minotaur\_Books on Instagram, using the hashtag #KingdomOfTheBlind.

Happy reading,

Minotaur Books



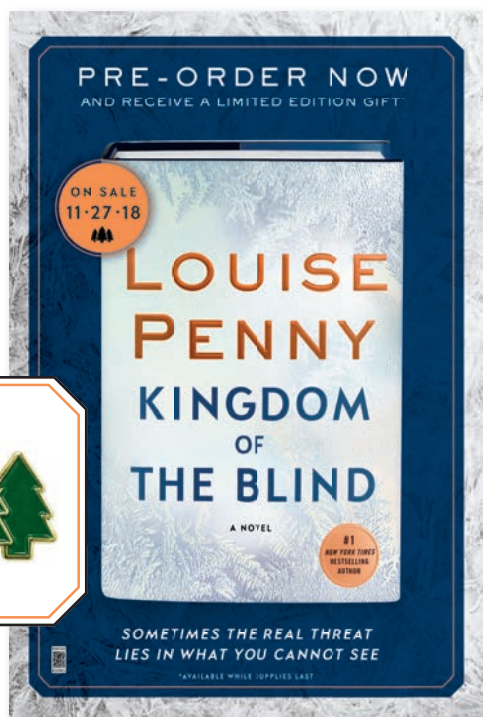


# PRE-ORDER INCENTIVE

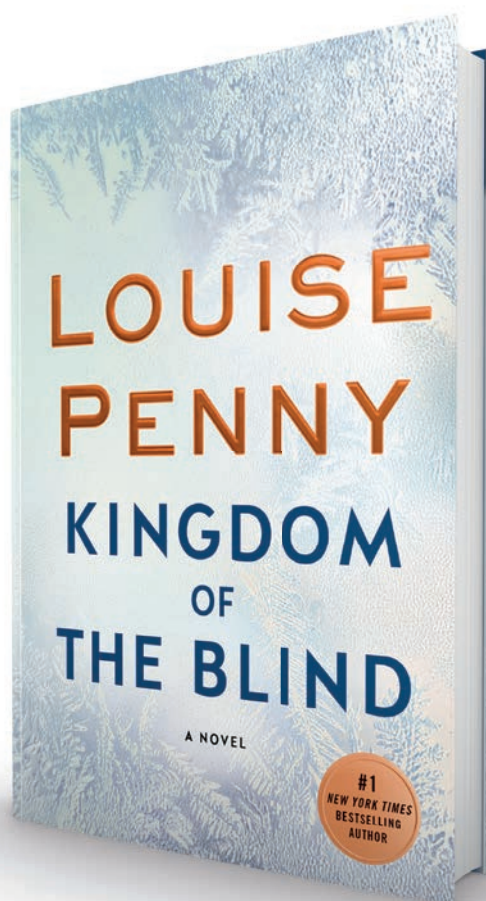
DECORATE YOUR BOOKSTORE AND GIVE AWAY FREE  
THREE PINES COLLECTOR'S SOUVENIRS



THREE PINES  
ENAMEL PIN



DOUBLE-SIDED  
POSTER



*SOMETIMES THE REAL THREAT LIES IN  
WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE*

To get the word out to your customers that the new Louise Penny is coming November 27, 2018, display the enclosed POSTER in a prominent location in your store, and use your website, email list, and social media to spread the word.

Until 11/01/18 and while supplies last, customers who pre-order *Kingdom of the Blind* in your store can receive a **FREE THREE PINES ENAMEL PIN!**

# AUTHORLESS EVENT

## YOUR GUIDE TO HOSTING A ONE-OF-A-KIND KINGDOM OF THE BLIND EVENT



- **RAFFLE OR DOOR PRIZES:** Hand out exclusive special edition bookmarks (2 per store) and maps of Three Pines (10 per store) to all participants, use them in a raffle, or give them away as prizes for the winners of Three Pines trivia!

LEATHER  
LOUISE PENNY  
BOOKMARK



ILLUSTRATED  
THREE PINES  
MAP



- **CHIEF INSPECTOR GAMACHE SERIES TRIVIA:** Test your party's Louise Penny knowledge with a trivia quiz! Divide into teams for three rounds of Three Pines questions. Make sure each team has a sheet of paper to write down their team name and answers. The team with the most correct answers wins!  
*[see pages 3-5]*
- **KINGDOM OF THE BLIND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Start the conversation about *Kingdom of the Blind* with discussion questions, and then feel free to add your own. *[see pages 6-7]*
- **MORE AT GAMACHESERIES.COM:** Looking for even more on the world of Three Pines? Head over to GamacheSeries.com, the online hub for all things Chief Inspector Gamache. There, you'll find "postcards" from Louise Penny, the cultural inspirations of Three Pines, plenty of recipes from the series, information about the real places that inspired the books, and more!





# THE ULTIMATE THREE PINES TRIVIA



**TRIVIA INSTRUCTIONS:** Ready to test your Three Pines knowledge? Players should divide into teams consisting of 1-5 players, and choose a unique team name. There will be three rounds of trivia, with questions ranging from easy to difficult. A moderator will announce each round and then read out the questions to the room, giving teams one minute to answer each question. After each round, the moderator will call out the correct answers. At the end of the game, the team with the most correct answers wins! Prizes, if any, will be determined by individual stores. No cell phones, computers, or other forms of cheating, please.

## ROUND 1 (EASY)

1. **On a map, where is Three Pines located?**
  - a. Saskatchewan
  - b. It can't be found on any map
  - c. Vermont
  - d. A suburb of Montreal
2. **What is the name of Ruth's pet duck?**
  - a. Bishop
  - b. Rosa
  - c. Henri
  - d. Honore
3. **Who is found dead at the very beginning of *Still Life*?**
  - a. Miss Jane Neal
  - b. Augustin Renauld
  - c. Madeleine Favreau
  - d. Reine-Marie Gamache
4. **Who served as Louise Penny's inspiration for Armand Gamache?**
  - a. Louise Penny's husband, Michael
  - b. The Publisher of Minotaur Books, Andrew Martin
  - c. Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau
  - d. Louise Penny's 3rd grade English teacher
5. **What C. S. Lewis quote is inscribed on both Gamache's bench in Three Pines and Michael's bench in Central Park?**
  - a. Surprised by Joy
  - b. We Laugh at Honor
  - c. We Are What We Believe We Are
  - d. True Humility is Not Thinking Less of Yourself; it is Thinking of Yourself Less.
6. **Who owns the Boulangerie in Three Pines?**
  - a. Sarah
  - b. Olivier
  - c. Gabri
  - d. Rosa
7. **What type of pipe are you likely to find in Three Pines?**
  - a. A tailpipe
  - b. A lead pipe
  - c. A hookah pipe
  - d. A licorice pipe
8. **What number book in the series is *Kingdom of the Blind*?**
  - a. 10
  - b. 12
  - c. 14
  - d. 16

9. Where does Gamache's son live?

- a. London
- b. Paris
- c. New York
- d. Toronto

10. Which of the following are not part of Gamache's four-sentence mantra?

- a. I'm sorry.
- b. I'll find out.
- c. I need help.
- d. I was wrong.

Answer key: 1. B, 2. B, 3. A, 4. A, 5. A, 6. A, 7. D, 8. C, 9. B, 10. B

## ROUND 2 (MODERATE)

11. Why were the three pines planted?

- a. As a tribute to three brothers who were lost in the war
- b. As a sign of refuge for the loyalists fleeing the American Revolution
- c. Because the village was once divided into three villages
- d. Because three pines looked better than just one pine

12. What's the name of Ruth Zardo's famous book of poetry?

- a. *Leaves of Grass*
- b. *Surprised By Joy*
- c. *I'm FINE*
- d. *I'm OKAY*

13. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in. Which Leonard Cohen song is this quote taken from?

- a. Anthem
- b. Hallelujah
- c. Suzanne
- d. Sisters of Mercy

14. What is the Canadian title for *A Rule Against Murder*?

- a. *The Sorcerer's Stone*
- b. *The Murder Stone*
- c. *Dead Cold*
- d. *The Rule of Four*

15. In *A Rule Against Murder*, is Bean a boy or a girl?

- a. A boy
- b. A girl
- c. It's never specified
- d. Bean is not a character in the series

16. What is the real-life location that inspired Arts Williamsburg?

- a. La Rumeur Affamée
- b. Brome Lake Bookstore
- c. Baie-Saint-Paul
- d. Brome County Historical Society

17. What book does Gamache read during his retirement in *The Long Way Home*?

- a. *The Da Vinci Code*
- b. *Still Life*
- c. *Horace's Odes*
- d. *There is a Balm in Gilead*

18. Where did Louise Penny work before becoming a full-time author?

- a. NPR
- b. CBC
- c. PBS
- d. BBC

19. The epitaph at the beginning of *A Great Reckoning* is attributed to which famous playwright?

- a. Christopher Marlowe
- b. Ben Jonson
- c. William Shakespeare
- d. Lin-Manuel Miranda

20. In which book do Annie Gamache and Jean-Guy Beauvoir get married?

- a. *How the Light Gets In*
- b. *A Trick of the Light*
- c. *The Brutal Telling*
- d. *Bury Your Dead*

Answer key: 11. B, 12. C, 13. A, 14. B, 15. C, 16. D, 17. D, 18. B, 19. C, 20. A

### ROUND 3 (EXPERT)

21. What was the name of Gamache's mother?

- a. Amelia
- b. Ruth
- c. Myrna
- d. Clara

22. What was Myrna's career before becoming the Three Pines bookshop owner?

- a. Author
- b. Chef
- c. Web Designer
- d. Psychologist

23. In *The Long Way Home*, who was the real-life inspiration for the Oulette Quintuplets?

- a. The Dionne Quintuplets
- b. The Corbeil Quintuplets
- c. The Gosselin Quintuplets
- d. The Brady Quintuplets

24. What is the real-life inspiration behind the Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loups monastery?

- a. Abbey of Saint-Benoît-du-Lac
- b. The Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec
- c. Sûreté du Québec
- d. Le Monastère des Augustines

25. Where did Reine-Marie Gamache work when the Gamache family lived in Québec City?

- a. The literary and historical society
- b. The library
- c. The Sûreté
- d. Arts Williamsburg

26. Which is not true about the cover for *The Long Way Home*?

- a. The painting is upside down
- b. The paper is made from vellum
- c. The cover feels like a canvas to the touch
- d. The painting is by Clarence Gagnon

27. What's the title of the novella that Louise Penny wrote to benefit adult literacy?

- a. *The Hangman*

- b. *The Crypt Keeper*
- c. *The Executioner*
- d. *The Librarian*

28. Which two roads bisect Three Pines?

- a. Old Stage Road & Du Moulin
- b. Broadway & Fifth Avenue
- c. Du Moulin & Three Pines Way
- d. Old Stage Road & Moulin Rouge

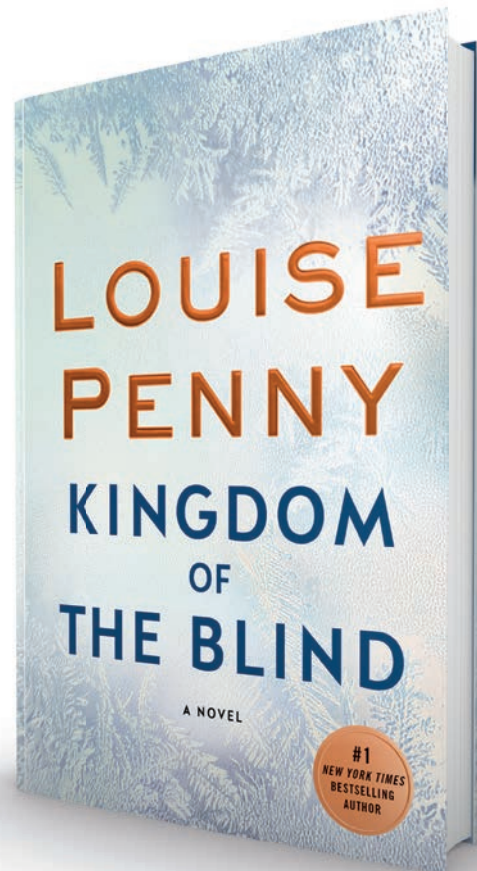
29. In what year was *Still Life* first published?

- a. 2004
- b. 2005
- c. 2003
- d. 2007

30. How many Anthony Awards has Louise Penny won?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

Answer key: 21. A, 22. D, 23. A, 24. A, 25. B, 26. B, 27. A, 28. A, 29. B, 30. D





# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Snow is a virtual character in this book, “both beautiful and alarming.” In Chapter 4, we are told, “In the countryside, winter was a gorgeous, glorious, luminous killer.” What other passages about snow are particularly striking, and how does the weather affect the story?
2. There are different kinds of families in the novel, from the Baumgartners to the Gamaches to the bonds between Benedict and Katie (“Benedict wondered if he tried, really, really tried, he could build a relationship that solid”), to the team of Armand, Jean-Guy, and Isabelle: “Her husband stayed behind in the living room, watching the three of them go. Recognizing that while he and the children would always be the most important parts of Isabelle’s lives, these three also formed a family.” There is even the drug dealer who names the new opioid “David” after his father. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these families?
3. In what ways does Louise misdirect the reader about the actions of various characters, including Benedict, Amelia, and the Baumgartner siblings, as well as Beauvoir and his possible “betrayal” of Gamache? How does she obscure Gamache’s own intentions? What were your worst fears for the characters, and how satisfying did you find the resolutions of their stories?
4. A number of the characters in the story are outliers in outward appearance and/or manner, including Benedict, Katie, the notary, Hugo, Billy Williams, Gracie, and arguably Ruth. How do first impressions line up with final ones? What conclusions, if any, can you draw about the importance of looks and behavior?
5. What are the roles of the various women in *Kingdom of the Blind*? In what ways do they meet or defy conventional expectations?
6. “You do know that the earth is round,” Gamache says to his godfather at lunch, to which Stephen Horowitz replies, “The earth might be, but human nature isn’t. It has caverns and abysses and all sorts of traps.” What aspects of human nature do we see throughout the novel?
7. When Beauvoir visits Taylor and Ogilvy, he notes that it seems like “a play. A set. Something that looked like one thing but was actually another,” with “fake originals.” What kinds of authenticity are important in this story?
8. The Montréal underworld could not seem more different from the sanctuary of Three Pines, yet Amelia finds herself in “an alley off an alley off a back lane. Impossible to find, except by those who were lost. She was pretty sure it wouldn’t be on any map. But once found, it was never forgotten. And probably never left.” This echoes language that is customarily used to describe Three Pines. Why do you think Louise describes the two places in such similar ways?
9. “How do you do it?” Isabelle asks Gamache in Chapter 11, as she struggles to recover from being shot in the head. When he responds, “Remember?” she answers, “Forget.” What do you make of Gamache’s story about the longhouse, where nothing can ever be expelled or hidden away?



10. Gamache also tells Isabelle, “I made mental lists and followed the things I love, the people I love, back to sanity. I still do.” How does this compare with the description of Ruth’s approach in Chapter 9: “Ruth remembered everything. Every meal, every drink, every sight, every slight, real and imagined and manufactured. Every compliment. Every word spoken and unspoken. She retrained it all, and rendered those memories into feelings and the feelings into poetry”?
11. What new relationships are forming in this book, and what do you think of them?
12. There are numerous instances in which characters are literally or figuratively blinded – by snow, by the debris from the house, by perspective (for example, consider Annie’s comment in Chapter 3, “Dad had no choice. But they might not see it that way,” and Beauvoir’s reply, “Then they’re blind”). How do these relate to the book’s title and the original passage from Erasmus?
13. Why does Amelia Choquet call herself “the one-eyed man”? What do you think of this “stoned former prostitute junkie who’s dealing opioids in the Academy” at various points in the story?
14. At the end of the novel, Myrna looks “up into the night sky. At all the dots of light shining down on her.” How does this connect to “Ruth and a dot of light” in Clara’s most famous painting, and what does that dot mean to you?

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# DECORATIONS AND REFRESHMENTS

## TURN YOUR BOOKSTORE INTO THE BISTRO!

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Use these suggestions for food, drink, and decorations, inspired by the world of Louise Penny, to transform your space into the ultimate *Kingdom of the Blind* event.

- **COTTON BALL SNOW GARLANDS:** Evoke the magic of a snowy evening in *Three Pines* by hanging strands of snow garland made from cotton balls. With a needle, string cotton balls together using white thread, leaving space between them for a “falling snow” effect. Use a bit of glue on the thread to make sure the cotton balls stay in place.
- **LIGHT A FIRE IN THE FIREPLACE:** Bonus points if your bookstore has its own fireplace, but for those who don’t, you can stream video of a crackling fireplace online at [Virtual-Fireplace.net](http://Virtual-Fireplace.net).



“What better way to engage not simply the senses but the soul, than by including readers in the meals shared by the friends in Three Pines?”

—LOUISE PENNY

Serve these two crowd-pleasers at your event, or find other inspiration through *The Nature of the Feast: Recipes from the World of Three Pines*, which is available to download in full at [GamacheSeries.com](http://GamacheSeries.com).



### LEMONADE Makes 5 to 6 Tall Glasses of Lemonade

Ingredients:

- ½ cup (101 g) granulated sugar
- ½ cup (120 ml) water
- 6 ripe, juicy lemons, or as needed
- Still water, club soda, or sparkling water as needed (about ½ cup/125 ml) per serving



1. Bring the sugar and water to a simmer, stirring, over low heat. Remove from the heat and continue stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Pour the simple syrup into a heatproof jar with a lid (a canning jar works well). Cool to room temperature.
2. Meanwhile, squeeze the lemons; there should be about 1 cup juice. Squeeze 1 or 2 more if you think the juice isn't tart enough or if you like lemonade with a little kick. When the simple syrup is cool, pour in the lemon juice and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or until chilled.
3. To serve: Fill a tall glass with ice. Pour in about ⅓ cup (75 ml) of the lemon juice mix. Top up the glass with about ½ cup still or sparkling water. Serve very cold.





## SUGAR PIE Makes 8 Servings

### Ingredients:

- One 9-inch (23-cm) unbaked pie shell, homemade or store-bought
- 1 cup (250 ml) heavy cream
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (85 g) packed dark muscovado or dark brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (60 ml) maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs



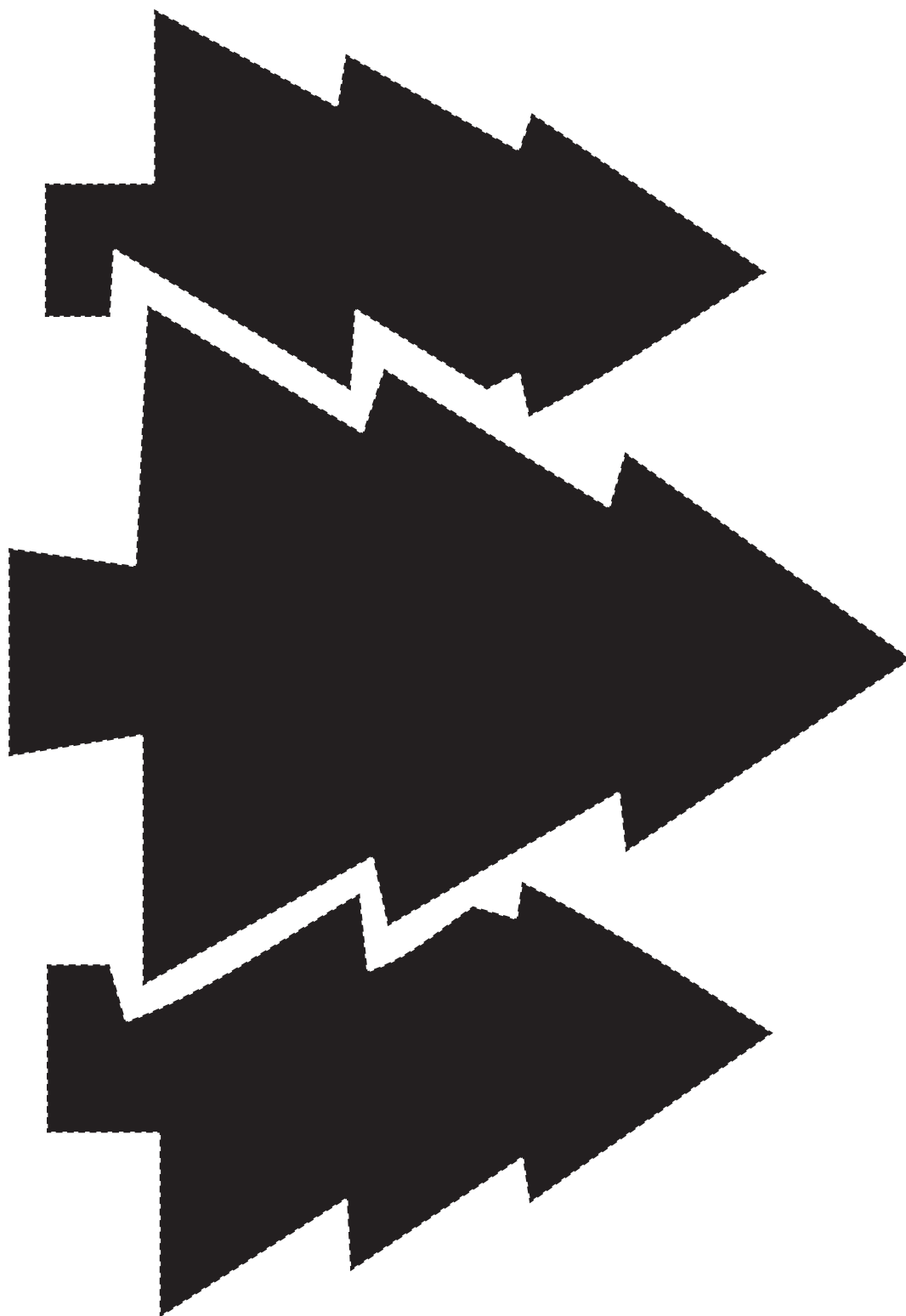
1. Pre-bake the pie shell: Whether using homemade or store-bought, be sure the rolled out shell is chilled, not frozen. With the rack in the center position, pre-heat the oven to 375° F (191° C). Poke the bottom of the shell with the tines of a fork at least 20 times. Bake shell for about 15 minutes or until the edges are light, golden brown and the bottom is lightly browned. Many recipes suggest lining the shell with foil and filling it with beans or pie weights. This is unnecessary if you check the pie shell halfway through baking and use the same fork to poke down any bubbles that have formed during baking. Remove the shell and cool to room temperature. Reduce the oven temperature to 350° F (177° C).
2. Make the filling: Pour heavy cream into a small saucepan over medium-low heat until the edges are bubbling. Pour the cream into a bowl, add the sugar, and whisk until smooth. Add the maple syrup, flour, and eggs and whisk until smooth.
3. Pour the filling into the pre-baked shell and bake at 350° F (177° C) until the center barely jiggles when you shake the pie pan, about 40 minutes. Let cool in the pan on a cooling rack completely before serving. The pie can be stored at room temperature for up to 1 day.







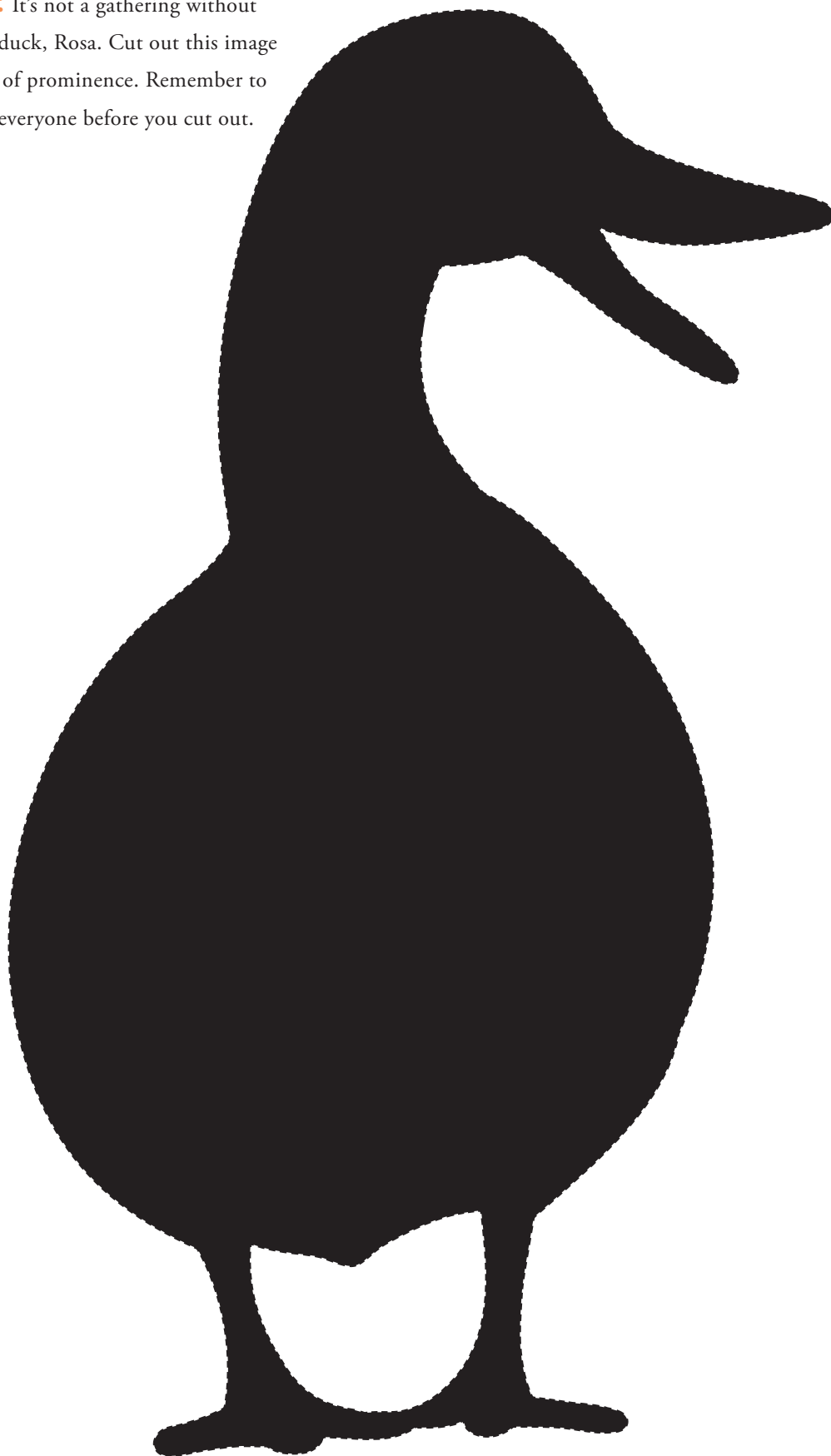
- **THREE PINES CUT-OUT:** Cut out this image of Three Pines and place it in a central location to create a “town square.” Remember to make extra copies for everyone before you cut out.







- **ROSA CUT-OUT:** It's not a gathering without Ruth Zardo's beloved duck, Rosa. Cut out this image and place it in a place of prominence. Remember to make extra copies for everyone before you cut out.





# COLOR THE WORLD OF THREE PINES

## The World of Three Pines

