

Tales & Travel Adventures: Let's visit...Chicago

With Mary Beth Riedner

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Literacy Activities for those Living with Dementia

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First, let's read the opening lines of this poem called "**Chicago**" by Carl Sandburg:

Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the
Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders.

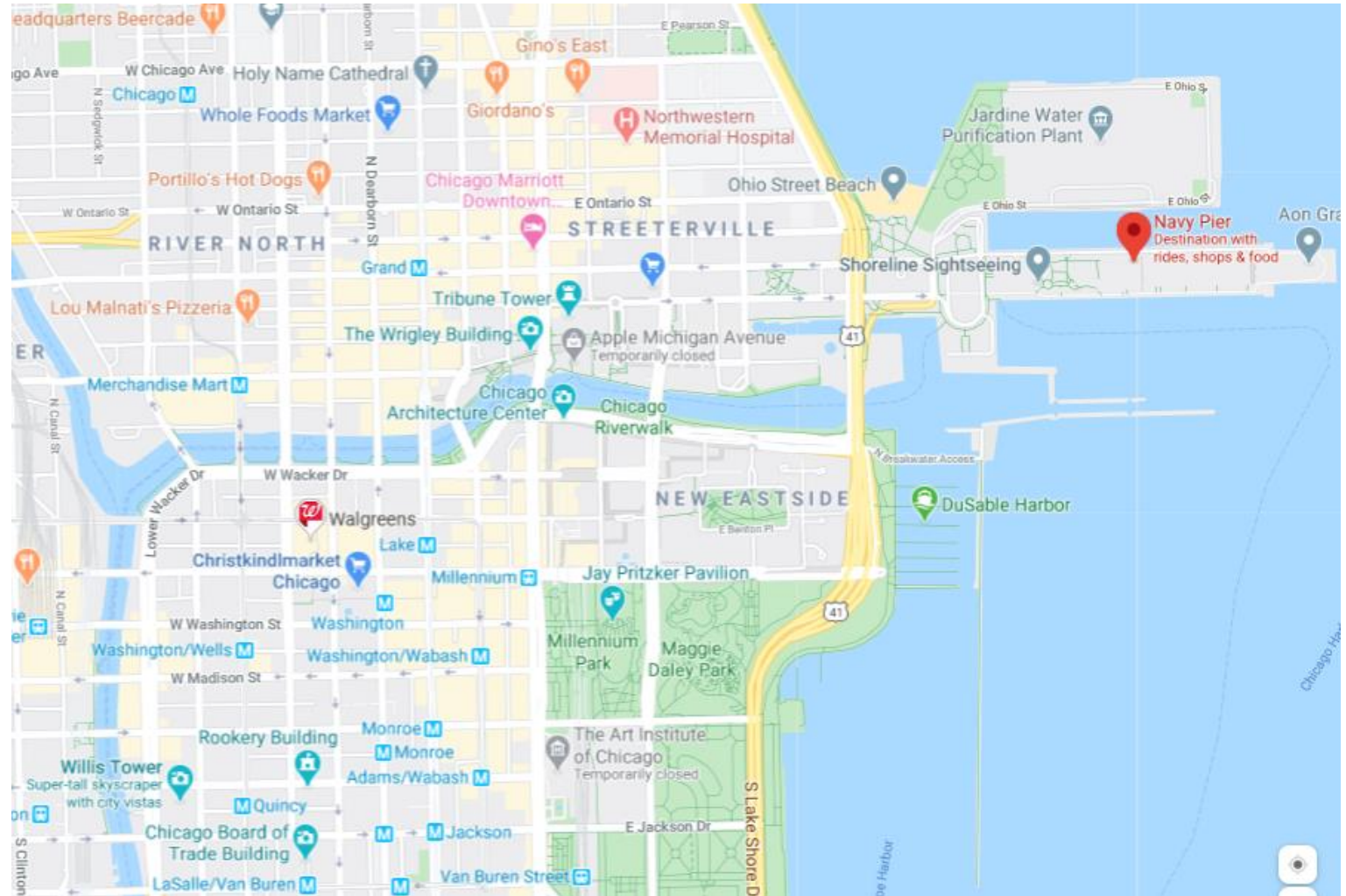


To read the whole poem go to
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/12840/chicago>

Merchandise Mart

Let's start our trip down the Chicago River to explore the "City of Big Shoulders".

The Chicago River winds through the heart of downtown Chicago. Our trip starts on the south branch of the river near Willis Tower.



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Navy+Pier/@41.8892117,-87.6289553,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xd0acd96b088a4dc!8m2!3d41.8918633!4d-87.6050944>

Our water taxi is arriving. Be careful getting on board as the boat might rock a little on the water.





Let's sit in the front of the boat to get the best view of the buildings and river ahead.

On the west side of the river is the old Daily News Building. Built in 1929, this 26-story skyscraper was the first to have an open-air plaza.





After the north and south branches of the river merge, we can see the Merchandise Mart. At 4 million square feet, it was the largest building in the world when it opened in 1930.

We're going under a lot of bridges, like this one at LaSalle Street. The bridges open so that tall boats can make their way to Lake Michigan.





Here, on the left as we head east toward the Lake, is one of two circular apartment buildings known as Marina Towers. They were finished in 1968. The first 19 floors of these 61 story buildings are for cars!

Just after passing the Wabash St. bridge, we see the 98 story Trump International Hotel & Tower. Finished in 2009, the building was named after then businessman, Donald Trump. He is now the 45th President of the United States.





Next, the Wrigley Building comes into view. Built in the 1920's as the headquarters for the chewing gum company, it is located on the "Magnificent Mile", as Michigan Avenue north of the river is called. Just across the river is where Fort Dearborn was built in 1803.

As we head east towards the lake, the river is lined with pleasant parklike walks called the River Walk.





Navy Pier comes into view as we approach Lake Michigan. Our boat ride is almost over, but not our trip!

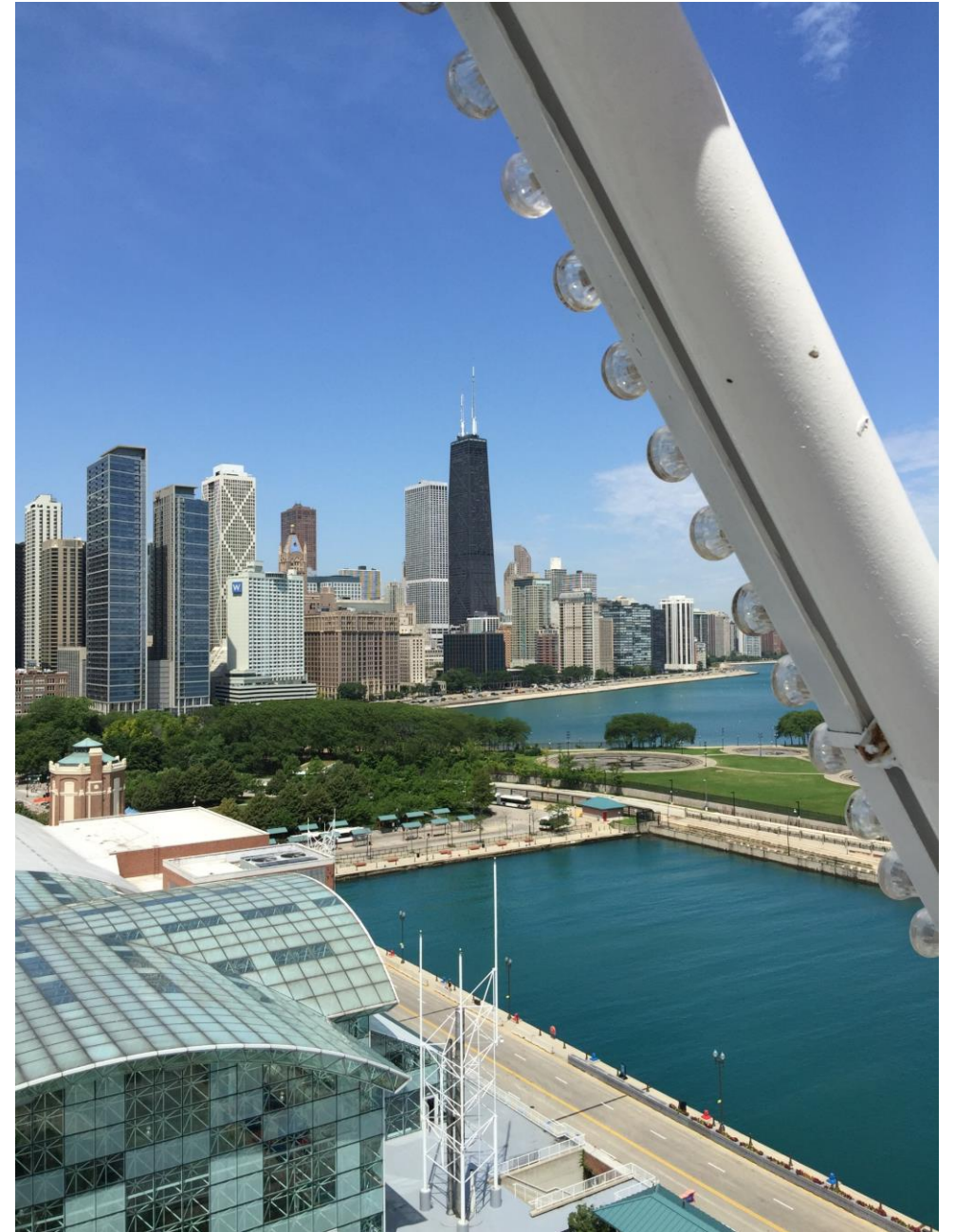
Back on land, let's go explore Navy Pier. This 3,300 foot long pier was designed in 1916 as a boat dock and for recreation and events. During World War II it was used as a training center by the Navy.





Today, Navy Pier is a popular tourist attraction known for restaurants, family attractions and exhibition facilities. Are you up for a ride on the Ferris Wheel? Did you know that the first ferris wheel was built in Chicago in 1893 as part of the World's Fair?

Looking north from the top of the ferris wheel, we can see many of Chicago's skyscrapers. The black building with two white antennae was known as the John Hancock Center when it was built in 1968. At that time it was the second tallest building in the world with antennae reaching a height of 1,499 feet.





Looking further north, we can see more of the beautiful skyline and beaches of the area known as “the Gold Coast”. As the shoreline curves, we can just see the trees of the Lincoln Park neighborhood with its famous zoo.

Looking south, we can see downtown Chicago, also known as “the Loop”. I hope you have good walking shoes on, because our next stop is Millenium Park in “the Loop”.





After quite a hike, we've made it to Millennium Park. One of its most popular features is a sculpture called Cloud Gate, affectionately known as "the Bean". Everyone wants to see their reflection in "the Bean".

Perhaps we should take a taxi to our last stop, Willis Tower. It used to be called the Sears Tower. With 110 stories, it was the tallest building in the world when it was finished in 1973. What a spectacular view from the observation deck! Can you see the John Hancock Center in the distance?





The observation deck of Willis Tower is called the Skydeck and is on the 103rd floor. Are you brave enough to step out onto one of the retractable glass balconies known as “The Ledge”? It’s only 1,353 feet down to the street below!

Let's Talk...

- Have you ever visited Chicago?
- Do you have any family or friends who live in Chicago?
- What do you think of when you think of Chicago?
 - Food
 - Sports teams
 - Airports
 - Museums
 - Parades
- Anything else?

Chicago Songs

The song “My Kind of Town (Chicago Is)” was made popular by Frank Sinatra.

I will play the melody on my flute and you can sing along using the lyrics on the following two screens.

My Kind of Town (Chicago Is)*

My kind of town, Chicago is
My kind of town, Chicago is
My kind of people too
People who, smile at you
And each time I roam, Chicago is
Calling me home, Chicago is
One town that won't let you down
It's my kind of town...



* <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/franksinatra/mykindoftown.html>

My kind of town, Chicago is
My kind of town, Chicago is
My kind of razzmatazz
And it has, all that jazz
And each time I leave, Chicago is
Tugging my sleeve, Chicago is
The Wrigley Building, Chicago is
The Union stock yard, Chicago is
One town that won't let you down
It's my kind of town



This is a free word search puzzle that you can find online at:

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2541/chicago/downloadable/>

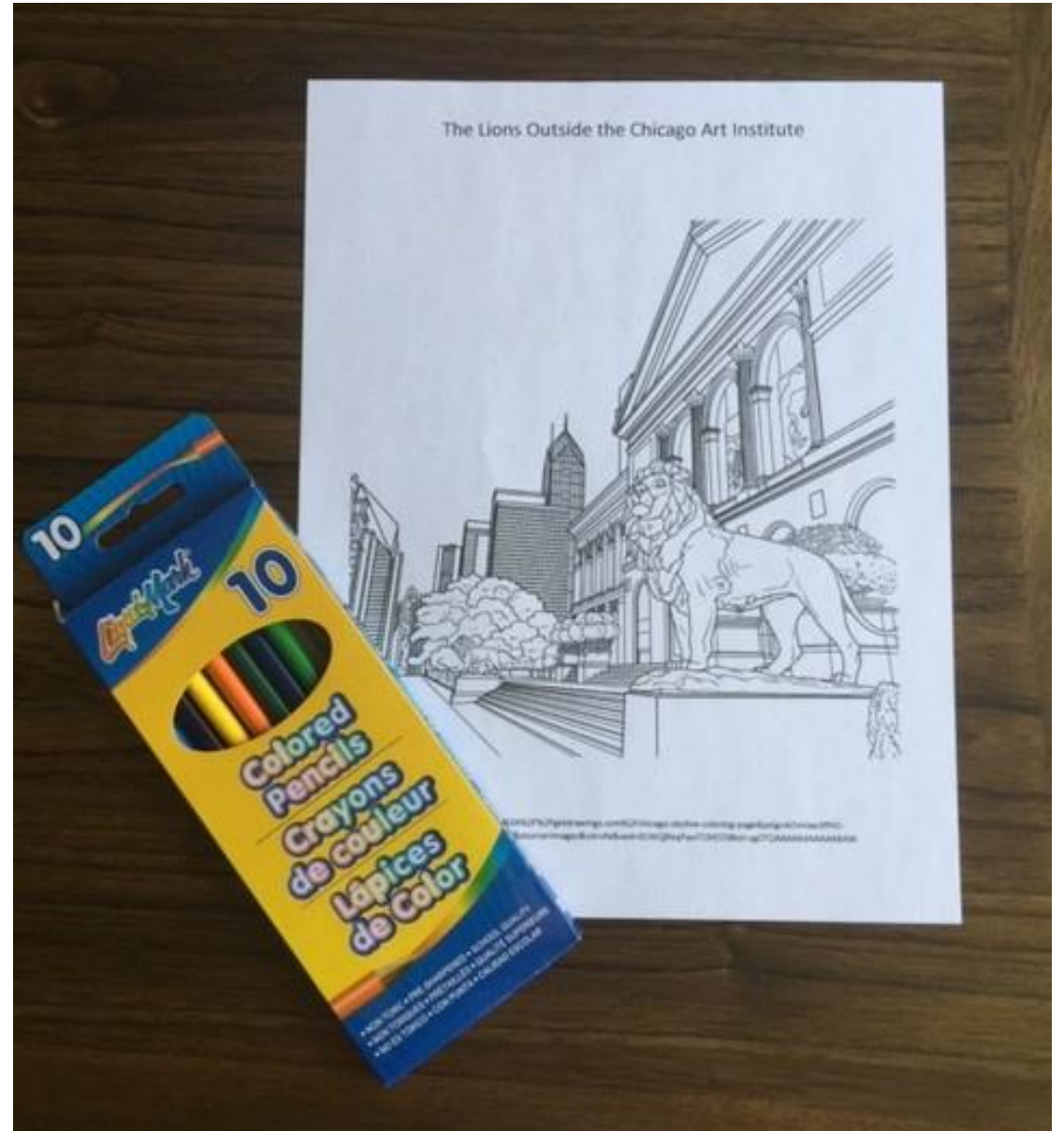
Chicago

O	E	Y	F	C	E	W	H	I	T	E	S	O	X
O	L	R	H	C	D	N	A	V	Y	P	I	E	R
S	B	I	R	O	T	S	A	O	C	D	L	O	G
A	T	E	D	E	T	Y	T	S	G	A	I	O	C
L	K	B	A	S	Y	D	O	E	T	T	F	F	U
C	N	N	R	R	A	L	O	R	W	N	Y	I	B
A	S	R	C	P	S	P	I	G	G	E	S	R	S
P	I	U	E	R	L	A	E	O	S	H	R	E	W
O	M	I	C	K	E	Y	F	I	N	N	E	E	I
N	D	W	R	I	G	L	E	Y	F	I	E	L	D
E	T	U	S	D	R	A	Y	K	C	O	T	S	Y
A	I	X	Y	Y	T	I	C	Y	D	N	I	W	E
D	O	T	R	O	P	R	I	A	E	R	A	H	O
B	L	U	E	S	I	U	I	A	I	X	C	C	D

WINDY CITY
HOT DOGS
BLUES
MICKEY FINN
GOLD COAST
AL CAPONE
STOCKYARDS
OHARE AIRPORT
WHITE SOX
WRIGLEY FIELD
FIRE
NAVY PIER
CUBS
BEARS

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2541/>

If you are artistically inclined, you might enjoy finding free coloring pages online. Try doing a Google search with terms such as “free coloring pages Chicago”. Then copy and paste an image into a word processing document and print it.



[Chicago Art Institute Lions](#)

Thank you for visiting Chicago with me!

- If you have any questions or comments, please contact me (Mary Beth Riedner) at mbeth60605@gmail.com
- Please take a moment to fill out a brief [Google Forms survey](#) about the value of this program.
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