

Be a Reading Star

2018 EDITION

Becoming a reading star is easy! Let your child pick from the books below to get started. For each book read, help her write the title and author on page 2. When she has filled out the reading log, she is officially a reading star!



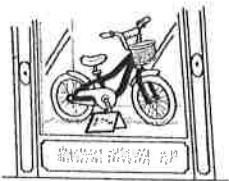
BEEP! BEEP! Go to Sleep! (Todd Tarpley)

Follow along as a little boy tries to put his three robots to bed. Every time he thinks they're settled in—BEEP! BEEP!—they wake up and want something. Find out who falls asleep first in this bedtime story.

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building (Christy Hale)

From toy blocks to famous buildings, this book introduces youngsters to architecture around the world using photographs and poetry. Children will see that techniques used by real architects come in handy with building blocks, too.

The Girl and the Bicycle (Mark Pett)



The reader gets to tell the story in this wordless picture book. Watch as a little girl sees a bike in a shop window and realizes she doesn't have enough money for it. She works hard helping her neighbor with outdoor chores to earn enough money. Will the girl get her bike, or does she use her money for something else?

Groovy Joe: Ice Cream and Dinosaurs (Eric Litwin)

Groovy Joe is a fun dog who loves two things: his “doggy ice cream”—he even wrote a song about it—and sharing. When different dinosaurs show up at Joe's place, he doesn't hesitate to let them dig in and enjoy his ice cream, too! This is the first book in the Groovy Joe series.

Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood (F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell)

A young artist named Mira loves colors, but her town is gray. She makes colorful paintings for her neighbors, and one day, a muralist is inspired by her artwork. Then, the entire neighborhood comes together to transform its living space into a vibrant community. Based on the true story of the San Diego Urban Art Trail. (Also available in Spanish.)

All the Water in the World (George Ella Lyon)

Little scientists explore the water cycle in this poetic nonfiction book. The book asks “Where does it come from?” and explains the importance of water. It also emphasizes the need to take care of Earth's limited supply, and includes facts about rain, droughts, and how water flows.



I Love You Just the Way You Are (Tammi Salzano)

Your youngster will learn about family and loving someone for who they are in this sweet story about a mother and a child. No matter what the little boy does or how messy he gets, his mom lets him know she loves him. (Also available in Spanish.)

Hiromi's Hands (Lynne Barasch)

In this true story, a young girl named Hiromi wants to spend time with her father, who works long hours as a sushi chef. Hiromi starts going to the fish market with her dad and learning the special skills needed to make sushi. When she grows up, she becomes one of the first female sushi chefs in New York.

The Otter Who Loved to Hold Hands (Heidi and Daniel Howard)

When this family of otters goes to sleep at night, they hold hands so they don't drift apart. But in the morning, Otto doesn't want to let go of his parents' hands. He is scared that he won't be able to swim. One day, Otto's mom finds a pearl in an oyster that helps Otto be braver and more independent.



continued



My Reading Log



1	_____	_____
	Title	Author
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	Title	Author
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Name



Little Authors

Whether your child is just beginning to write his letters or has graduated to entire paragraphs, he can be an author! From a simple counting book to an information-packed travel guide, these projects will boost your youngster's writing skills—and his confidence in himself as a writer.



Counting book

Ask your child to find items in your house that come in numbers from 1 through 10. Perhaps you have 1 refrigerator, 2 TVs, 3 candles, and 4 kitchen chairs. Let him draw each set of items on a separate sheet of paper. Staple the pieces together into a book. Then, help him write a sentence on every page. *Example:* "We have 4 chairs for 4 people."

Fill-in-the-blank story

Your youngster can write her own version of a favorite book with this idea. Read the story aloud to her. Afterward, write sentences from the book on sheets of paper, leaving blanks for the characters' names and for places and objects mentioned. Ask her to fill in the blanks with new names, places, and things. She might use classmates' names, places she has visited, and items she likes. When she's finished, invite her to read her version to you. She'll see how much a story changes based on an author's choices.

Lift-the-flap riddles

Here's a clever way for your child to write riddles. Help him cut construction paper into quarters and staple the pieces together along one edge. He can make flaps by carefully cutting four smaller squares from another sheet of paper and gluing the top of each square onto a page. Next, have him write

a riddle on each flap and the answer underneath. He could get ideas by looking around the room, choosing an object, and thinking about what it does. *Example:* "I go up and down. When you look at me, you see outside. What am I?" (A window.)



My autobiography

Suggest that your youngster write about a familiar subject: herself. Give her one sheet of paper for every year of her life, and talk about what might go on each page. For instance, remind her how old she was when she started school, when her baby brother was born, or when you moved to a new home. She can draw a picture and write a sentence or paragraph about each event.

Publish it!

When your youngster completes a writing project, encourage her to share it using one of these ideas:

- Ask her to illustrate her story. Help her frame her picture and hang it on the wall.
- Add your child's writing to your family's book collection. She could hole-punch stories and put them in a binder or slip them into pages of a photo album. Let her display homemade books on top of a bookcase.
- Hold an "author celebration" when she finishes writing a story or book. Choose a special chair where she can sit and read it aloud to your family.
- Help your youngster type a story and email it to a relative or friend. Or she can write it on paper and mail it.





Coffee-table book

With this giant book, your child can save her artwork and practice writing captions. Ask her to select several drawings and paintings that she did in school. Cut a few pieces of poster board in half, and let her glue a picture on each half (leaving space for writing). Staple them together, and help your youngster write about each project on the space below it: "This is a sunset. I used red, yellow, and orange paint."

Tall tale

Read several tall tales to your child. You can find these at the library or online. Explain that tall tales exaggerate something, often in a funny way. The story of Paul Bunyan, for instance, tells about an enormous lumberjack. Then, have your youngster think of something that would be funny to exaggerate. If he likes to sing, he might write about a boy who sings everything he wants to say instead of talking. Or maybe he loves the color blue. He could write a tall tale where everything is blue. *Idea:* Let him write his story on narrow pieces of paper and tape them together end-to-end. It will be a *tall* tall tale!

Travel brochure

What kinds of restaurants would be on Jupiter? Your youngster gets to decide when she writes her own travel guide to any spot in the universe. After she picks a place, help her fold a sheet of paper into thirds lengthwise. The front panel is the cover, where she can put a title ("Visit Jupiter!") and draw a picture. Help her write headings for the next four sections: "What to see," "What to do," "Where to stay," and "Where to eat." On those panels, she can draw and label tourist attractions ("Big Red Spot Museum"), activities ("High-Bounce Trampolines"), lodging ("Helium Hotel"), and restaurants ("The Ice Box"). On the back cover, your child might add another illustration and a line encouraging people to visit ("Fly to Jupiter today!").

3-D nature guide

This book made of zipper bags is a fun introduction to nonfiction writing. Go outside so your youngster can collect a few small objects from the ground (leaf, rock, pinecone,

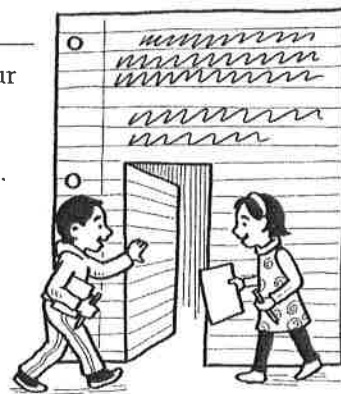


twig). Have him write about each one on a separate index card. *Example:* "This leaf was in our front yard. It is red and pointy." Then, put each item into a separate bag along with its index card. He can write a title for his book on a card and put that inside another bag. Help him seal the bags and staple the left edges together.

Story starters

"What should I write about?" When your child asks this question, suggest that he think of interesting or funny first lines he could use. Here are ideas to get him started.

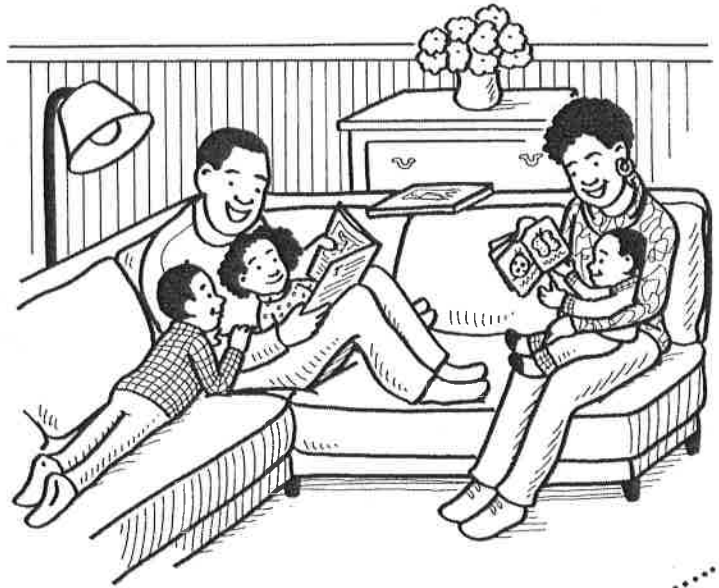
1. One day, I discovered a secret room in my house.
2. Polly was a polar bear who didn't like snow.
3. At noon, we were still waiting for the sun to come up.



4. "It's time for your flying lesson," Mom said.
5. There were 10 seconds left in the big game.
6. I couldn't believe what I saw!
7. My new iguana is green.
8. The grocery store was dark and spooky.
9. "Class, we have a new student," the teacher said.
10. It was the best day of the year.

THE GIFT OF READING ALOUD

In 20 magical minutes a day, you can connect with your youngster, improve her reading skills, and foster a love of books—just by reading aloud. These ideas to use before, during, and after reading will make the experience full of learning and enjoyable for the whole family.



BEFORE

Set the stage for successful read-alouds with these tips.

CHOOSE BOOKS



Visit the library regularly with your child to stock up on all kinds of books, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. She may pick the same familiar stories over and over, which is great—they're comforting to her, and repeated readings promote word recognition and deeper comprehension. Introduce new

titles, too. Perhaps she'd like a favorite book from when you were little. Or ask the librarian for recommendations for kids your youngster's age.

PICK A GOOD TIME

Reading aloud is more pleasant and productive if it's not rushed or interrupted. Set aside time each day when you and your child can focus solely on reading, maybe after dinner or at bedtime. Turn off the TV, and put away cell phones and other devices. He won't get distracted and lose track of the book, and you'll reinforce the idea that sharing a story with him is the most important thing going on at that moment.

DO A PREVIEW

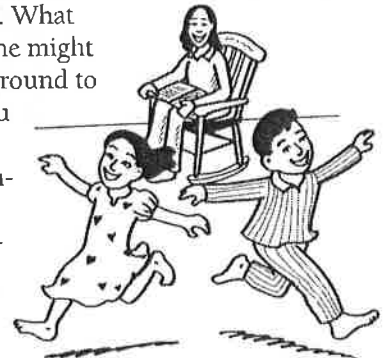
Let your youngster flip through the pages before you read a book aloud. Encourage her to talk about what she sees in the pictures. Who is the main character? Where does the story take place? (She'll want to be careful not to find out the ending by looking at the last page.) If it's nonfiction, what does your child already know about the topic? Having an idea of what to expect prepares her to understand the book. *Idea:* If you're going to read a storybook, suggest that she pick a voice for you to use for each character.

DURING

Use read-alouds to build skills your youngster needs for independent reading. Here's how.

ACT OUT NEW VOCABULARY

Invite your child to act out unfamiliar words when you read to him. That will help the words stick in his mind. For example, if you're reading about a baby giraffe with *unsteady* legs and he asks what *unsteady* means, you might say, "*Unsteady* means wobbly or shaky. Show me how you stand on *wobbly* legs." If a bird in a story is *gliding*, you could tell him, "It's flying without flapping its wings. What would that look like?" Then, he might stretch his arms out and run around to pretend he's gliding. *Tip:* If you come across a word you don't know, look it up in the dictionary together. Your youngster will see that vocabulary building is a lifelong adventure.



EXPLORE THE PICTURES

While you read, hold the book so your child can see both the words and the pictures. Looking at the illustrations as he listens helps him to understand and enjoy the story. Let him set the pace—he may want to examine an illustration closely or have you go back to a previous one to clear up confusion.

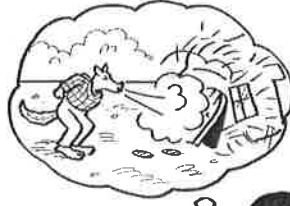


illustration and think of a rhyming word that makes sense in the sentence (*lines*). She'll work on using context clues and pictures to make her prediction—important strategies for when she's reading to herself and gets stuck on a word.

PREDICT THE RHYME

Read a rhyming book to your youngster. Cover up the second rhyming word in a pair, and see if she can figure it out. *Example:* "In an old house in Paris that was covered in vines, lived twelve little girls in two straight _____." Your child could look at the

SHARE THE FUN

Books that follow a predictable pattern or ones with lines that repeat are perfect for shared reading. Put your youngster in charge of reading the refrain. Each time you come to "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down," for example, pause to let him take over. Reading familiar lines aloud lets him practice sounding smooth and using good expression.

AFTER

Read-aloud time doesn't have to end when you close the book. Keep the fun going with comprehension-boosting activities like these.

RETELL THE STORY

Let your youngster use "stepping-stones" to retell the story. She can label three paper plates "Beginning," "Middle," and "End." On each one, encourage her to draw what happened in that part of the story. She might draw the gingerbread man jumping from the oven, running from the people and animals, and outsmarting a fox. Then, have her lay her stepping-stones in order on the floor and step on each one as she retells the story.



MAKE TRADING CARDS

Your child can keep track of the books you read aloud by creating a trading card for each one. Suggest that he write the title and author on an index card and draw a picture of the main character (for fiction) or the book's topic (for nonfiction). On the back of the card, he could list a few words to remind himself of what the book was about. After reading one about weather, for instance, maybe he'll write *science*, *nature*, and *storms*. *Idea:*



Encourage him to sort the cards into categories, such as animal stories and biographies, and keep each group in a separate labeled zipper bag.

BUILD KNOWLEDGE

Books can open doors to new experiences for your youngster. If you read her a story about kids running a lemonade stand, she might enjoy setting up a stand of her own. Or you could follow up on a book set in pioneer times by visiting a history museum. She'll make connections between books and real life, and she'll gain background knowledge she can draw on in the future.