

Texas 2 X 2
Reading List
Age 2 to Grade 2

*Texas Library Association sponsors
the 2X2 Reading
List solely to encourage free
voluntary reading.*

2015 Parent and Child Sharing Time Activities

Arena, Jen. *Besos for Baby*. Illustrated by Blanca Gómez. Ages 0-3.

- Practice saying words in both English and Spanish. Start with the ones in the story and then learn new words to share.
- Share the love by creating art with simple toilet paper roll heart stamps.

<http://www.prettyprudent.com/2012/02/baby-kid/toilet-paper-roll-heart-stamps/>

- Make Heart-shaped cheerio bird feeders – or alternatively, jewelry you can eat later at snack time!

<http://pre-schoolplay.blogspot.com/2012/02/cheerio-bird-feeders.html>

Aylesworth, Jim. *My Grandfather's Coat*. Illustrated by Barbara McClintock. Ages 5-8.

- Read *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback and compare the stories.
- Talk about how the coat was recycled.
- Go to a craft store and look at fabric and sewing supplies. Buy fabric, needles, and thread and try sewing two pieces of fabric together to make a pillow or another item.

Websites:

- Watch and listen to the song “I Had a Little Overcoat”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28BwwIsUj9M>.
- Learn about the author. <http://www.ayles.com/mygrandfathers.html>

App:

Explain Everything – Take a picture of an item that your child would want to pass down through the generations and record them telling why it is special.

Bently, Peter. *Meet the Parents*. Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie. Ages 4-8.

- Look carefully at the illustrations and talk with your child about why the parents are described as “tent poles,” or “donkeys” or “sofas.”
- Ask your child to think of ways that you help them.

Websites:

Meet the Parents Activity worksheet: [meettheparents-activity-packs-medres-1.pdf](#)

App:

Stick Family Creator (\$1.99 in App Store)-create your very own stick family

Brown, Peter. *My Teacher is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)* Ages 5-8.

- Why does Bobby think his teacher is a monster? How do his feelings change by the end of the book?
- Talk about the dominant colors in the illustrations. Why do you think the illustrator used those colors?
- Look carefully at the illustrations and talk about how Ms. Kirby changes.
- Read a similar title, *The Teacher from the Black Lagoon*, and compare it to *My Teacher is Monster*.

Websites:

Author website: <http://www.peterbrownstudio.com/>

My Teacher is a Monster Activity Kit: TeacherMonster_kit.pdf

App:

The Monster at the End of This Book (\$4.99 on App Store)—animated book app

Burningham, John. ***The Way to the Zoo***. Ages 3-6.

- What would you do if you found a door to the zoo? Would you act the same as Sophie and bring animals home for a sleepover? What would you do differently?
- If you could have a magic door appear in your wall, where would you like it to lead to?
- Make a safari hat and go on a lion hunt!

<http://growingbookbybook.com/2014/06/03/storytime-ideas-were-going-on-a-lion-hunt/>

App:

Switch Zoo - Make your own animals (available via the App Store for Apple; Google Play for Android)

Campbell, Scott. ***Hug Machine***. Ages 4-8.

- Talk about how a hug makes you feel.
- Draw or name the people and things you would hug if you were a Hug Machine.
- Watch the 90 Second Hugs with Hug Machine video to exercise your hugging arms:
<http://youtu.be/RyRmZDyKPQU>

- Read similar titles such as *Hug* (Jez Alborough), *Who Wants a Hug?* (Jeff Mack), and *Duck & Goose: Goose Needs a Hug* (Tad Hills)

App:

Feel Electric! - learning app about emotions; Free on App Store or Google Play.

DiPucchio, Kelly. ***Dog Days of School.*** Illustrated by Brian Biggs. Ages 4-8.

- If you could trade places with anything or anyone, whom or what would you trade with? Why?
- Make a list of your favorite things about school. Write the words and/or draw a picture to represent each favorite thing.
- If you could make any wish, what would you wish for? Draw a picture or write a story about your wish?

Website:

- http://www.kellydipucchio.com/DOG_DAYS_OF_SCHOOL.html

App:

Felt Board — create a picture showing what you like doing at school (\$2.99 for Apple Products.)

DiTerlizzi, Angela. ***Some Bugs.*** Illustrated by Brendan Wenzel. Ages 2-5.

- Go outside and look for bugs in your backyard, on the sidewalk, at the park!
- Keep a journal of all the different insects you encounter. Which kinds do you see most? Where do you most often see them? What are your favorites?
- Make binoculars to use on your explorations.
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/binoculars-for-kids/>

Gall, Chris. ***Dog vs. Cat.*** Ages 5-8.

- If you could have any pet in the world, what pet would you have? Why?
- Having a pet is a major responsibility. What do you have to do to care for a pet?

- Draw a picture of either a dog or a cat. Give it a name. Write or tell a story about an adventure that it has at your house.

Website:

- <http://www.chrisgallbooks.com/> - Author Chris Gall's website

App:

Littlest Pet Shop – Collect a variety of pets; care for them, make houses for them, etc. Free for Apple Products.

Hale, Shannon and Dean. ***The Princess in Black***. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Ages 5-8.

- Visit the authors' and illustrator's websites.
- Take a picture and turn yourself into a super hero.
- Compare Princess Magnolia to other superheroes.
- Share other princess stories.
- Share other superhero stories.
- Using a pipe cleaner and a bead, make a glitter-stone ring, or use aluminum foil to make one.

Websites: http://www.squeetus.com/stage/books_pib.html - Visit the Shannon Hale's website for 10 Things We Love About The Princess in Black and Origin of a Superhero.

<http://www.leuyenpham.com/> - Visit the illustrator's website.

<http://www.candlewick.com/authill.asp?b=Author&pg=1&m=actlist&a=&id=0&pix=n&disbn=076366510X> - Visit Candlewick Press website for 7 Things You Didn't Know About the Princess in Black and A Conversation With Shannon and Dean Hale.

<http://www.simplekidscrafts.com/video/easy-kids-aluminum-paper-craft-rings-> make an aluminum foil ring.

http://www.firstpalette.com/tool_box/printables/superhero.html -make a superhero mask.

<http://craftingagreenworld.com/2014/03/29/23-awesome- superhero-crafts/> superhero crafts

Apps:

SuperHero

Create Your Own Superheroes

Superhero Colouring Book

Superhero Memory Match

Princess Fairy Tale Puzzle Fantasy

Hall, Michael. *It's an Orange Aardvark!*. Ages 4-8.

- Visit the author's website.
- Watch the Sesame Street - I'm an Aardvark video. Compare the aardvark in the video with the aardvark in the book.
- Predict what could be on the outside of the stump.
- In an art activity make the concentric circles.
- Compare the book to *Seven Chinese Brothers* or *Seven Blind Mice*.
- Share other books with holes.
- Using flash cards of animals, cover up the entire animal except for a hole, try to guess what animal it is.

Websites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtFG9Md4iDM-> book trailer

<https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=sesame%20street%20i%27m%20an%20aardvark> -Vintage Sesame Street clip

<http://www.playingbythebook.net/2014/11/10/its-an-orange-aardvark/> -Art lesson on making concentric circles

Apps:

What's My Pair- Teaches shapes, colors and numbers

Amazing Ants-Help the ants get fruit

Zoo Sounds - Animal Flash Cards with sounds

Harrison, Hannah E. *Extraordinary Jane*. Ages 4-8.

- Discuss vocabulary words such as “extraordinary”, “graceful”, “mighty” and “daring”.
- What is a talent? What are some talents of each family member? Video each family member explaining or showing their talent.
- What does it mean when it says, “that was enough” at the end of the story?

Websites:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hhECrfZVQA>. Watch the dogs perform at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.
- Learn about the amazing animals that perform at the circus. www.ringling.com.

App:

ABC Circus – Circus games to help kids learn the letters of the alphabet; free for Apple Products.

Judge, Lita. *Flight School*. Ages 4-8.

- Visit the author's website.
- Compare and contrast the penguin with other birds.
- Talk about a time when they had a dream that seemed impossible to achieve.
- Do a picture walk with each page. "What is going on here?" "Who is this?" "Why does the character look so excited?" "When is this story taking place?" "Where did the character just come from?" "How do you think the story is going to end?"
- Research the penguin and each of the animals in the Flight School.
- Compare Little Penguin to Tacky the Penguin.

Websites: <http://www.litajudge.net/> -author's website

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxq2Q3IZr-A> –watch Lita Judge draw penguins

Apps:

Aero - Dynamics of flight

Penguin Math –Adding, subtracting, multiplication and division

Zoo Sounds - Animal Flash Cards with sounds

Animals! - Life Science and educational learning game

Krensky, Stephen. *I Am So Brave!* Illustrated by Sara Gillingham. Ages 1-3.

- Discuss feelings and how they can change. Talk about how your child has already overcome several obstacles and fears. Share fears that you've overcome.
- Use an old plastic tablecloth to make a superhero cape. Decorate it with markers.

http://www.ehow.com/how_8409156_make-capes-kids-plastic-tablecloths.html

Nichols, Lori. *Maple*. Ages 3-6.

- Maple's parents planted a maple seed before she was born in her honor. What kind of seed did they plant before her sister was born? Choose a seed to plant with your family and watch it grow.
- Maple's tree and her baby sister's tree started out with a seed and grew into a sapling. Talk about the parts of a tree. Talk about the four seasons and what happens to leaves on a tree during each season.
- Look at the pictures in the book where the leaves on Maple's tree dance for her. Collect and sort leaves. Make your own leaf rubbing by putting a leaf under paper. Color over it using the side of an unwrapped crayon.
- Visit a local botanical garden and arboretum.

Websites:

<http://www.kidzone.ws/plants/trees.htm> -- The science of trees, including their parts

<http://www.kidzone.ws/plants/collection.htm> -- Collecting Autumn leaves

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/VirtualTours/KidsVirtualTour.html> --A virtual tour of the National Arboretum

<http://www.lorinichols.com> --Author/illustrator Lori Nichols' web site

App:

I Can Name 50 Trees Today! (Oceanhouse Media) – join the Cat in the Hat as he teaches all about trees; \$5.99 in App Store for Apple products

Pett, Mark. *The Girl and the Bicycle*. Ages 4-8.

- Pair with other picture books about bicycles.
- Make a bank out of an empty coffee can, water bottle or baby food jar.
- Teach children about money.
- Visit the U.S. Mint, virtually.
- Play the Lemonade Stand Game.
- Complete random act of kindness.

Websites:

<http://www.markpett.com/authorstrator/> -Matt Pett's website.

<http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/pdf/literacy/2014%20Girl%20%26%20Bicycle%20LA.pdf> -Vermont Treasurer Girl and the Bicycle Study Guide

<http://www.allyou.com/budget-home/crafts/water-bottle-craft> -make a piggy bank out of a water bottle

<http://life.familyeducation.com/money-and-kids/personal-finance/34481.html> teaching children about money

http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games/ed_bank/index.html -Ed's Bank

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/> -US Mint

<http://www.eatsleepbe.com/2012/02/acts-of-kindness-for-kids/> - Random Acts of Kindness for Kids

Apps:

Lemonade Stand

Saving with Piggy

Amazing Coin (USD) Educational Money Learning & counting game

Saving Wiz JR

Salas, Laura Purdie. ***Water Can Be...*** Illustrated by Violeta Dabija. Ages 5-8.

- After reading this book, look again at the pictures. Water does a lot! Name some ways water helps people. What are some animals who live in water? How does water affect our weather?
- Have fun with some simple water science experiments. Read *Just Add Water: Science Experiments You Can Sink, Squirt, Splash, Sail* from Children's Press. Have an ice cube race and see whose ice cube melts first. Put a mirror in a small tub of water and talk about reflections in ponds and other bodies of water. Explore the water cycle.
- There are lots of rhyming words in this book. Take another look! List some of the rhyming pairs. Can you think of your own rhyming words to describe water? Try writing a short poem about water.
- Using watercolors, paint a picture showing your favorite thing about water.

Websites:

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-placemat.html> -- Water cycle placemat from United States Geological Survey

<http://www.kidzone.ws/water/> -- About the water cycle, including activity pages with some experiments

<http://www.Laurasalis.com> -- Author Laura Purdie Salas' web site

<http://www.violetadabija.com/> -- Illustrator Violeta Dabija's web site

App:

The Water Cycle (Lunar Light Studios); Free

Saltzberg, Barney. *Chengdu Could Not, Would Not Fall Asleep*. Ages 2-5.

- Turn to the page where Chengdu hangs upside down to try to fall asleep. Talk about your bedtime routines. What helps you get ready for bedtime and fall asleep? Watch the book trailer. Did Chengdu make you yawn and get sleepy, or giggle and laugh?
- Chengdu is a Giant Panda. Giant Pandas are endangered animals. What makes an animal endangered? Learn more from National Geographic and the World Wildlife Fund.
- Make a panda bear puppet or mask. Read the story again and act out Chengdu's part using your craft.
- Read two more books featuring a panda bear: *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?* by author Bill Martin and illustrator Eric Carle, and *Panda Kindergarten* by Joanne Ryder with photographs by Dr. Katherine Feng. How are the books the same, and how are they different? How are the pandas in these books the same as or different from Chengdu the panda?

Websites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d23bj6NjmSg> --Book trailer

http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en_US/animals/giant-panda/ --National Geographic Kids Giant Panda

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/species/giant-panda> --World Wildlife Fund

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mplate-panda.htm> --Paper plate panda mask craft

http://www.first-school.ws/activities/crafts/animals/wild/panda_paper_bag_puppet_circles.htm
--Paper bag panda puppet craft

<http://www.barneysaltzburg.com> --Author/illustrator Barney Saltzberg's web site

App:

WWF Together-- World Wildlife Fund, Inc.; free.

Yoon, Salina. ***Found***. Ages 3-6.

- Go on a scavenger hunt. Gather your favorite stuffed animal, and some other favorite items around the house. Make a list of the items along with its picture. Take turns hiding and finding them.
- Look at the illustrations of all the LOST posters in *Found*. Can you find the canary, the bone, and the left sock? What else can you find? Now make a list of words with pictures and go on a Word Hunt.
- In the story, when Moose finds his bunny Floppy, he decides to give him to Bear. Have you ever shared a toy with a friend? Have you ever given your toy away? How did that make you feel? How did it make the other person feel?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal? What is its name? Draw and color a picture of your stuffed animal and make a poster.

Websites:

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/reading-activities/word-hunt> -- Word Hunt Scavenger Hunt builds pre-reading skills from Scholastic

<http://www.nwf.org/kids/family-fun/outdoor-activities/backyard-scavenger-hunt.aspx> -- Backyard scavenger hunt from the National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/tip/daily-tips/create-photo-clues-your-baby-to-find> -- Photo clues for your toddler from Scholastic

<http://www.salinayoon.com> -- Author/illustrator Salina Yoon's web site

Yuly, Toni. ***Early Bird***. Ages 2-4.

- Talk about what it means to be an "early bird" or a night owl. Are you an early bird or a night owl?
- Have your child re-tell the story of where early bird goes.
- Talk about the many prepositions in the book—across, through, under, up, etc.
- Talk about how the background color of the book changes, and why.

Websites:

Learn more about the author: <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=3341>

Make a paper plate bird: <http://familycrafts.about.com/od/feathers/a/pplatebird.htm>

App:

My Bird World HD - bird games for ages 4 and up (\$4.99 on App Store)

Preposition Builder (\$7.99 on App Store)