



Laurie Keller's *Birdy's Smile Book* Activity Kit

Includes reproducible
activity sheets!



Laurie Keller knows how to write, illustrate, and make people smile and laugh. Get ready for some fun as you learn all about smiles in Laurie's latest book, *Birdy's Smile Book*, and keep those smiles warm and limber by revisiting some of Laurie's other titles, sure to make you grin and sometimes, even, laugh out loud!

Guide written by

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When You're Smiling the Whole World Smiles with You!



Birdy says that smiles are contagious. When you smile at someone, that person is sure to smile at someone, who will smile at someone, who will smile at someone, until your smile spreads across the whole world—even as far as Timbuktu!

Begin this activity by brainstorming with children and listing as many fairy-tale and folktale characters as you can. Encourage children to look through collections of tales for ideas. Be sure to include the mean and dastardly characters as well as the nice ones.

Next, color-code the characters (using highlighters or round colored labels): yellow for those most likely to smile and purple for those most likely to frown. If you have plenty of time, ask kids to draw a picture of their favorite character (including a smile or a frown on his or her face).



Now draw a very large circle on chart paper or, if you have plenty of room, make a large circle with removable tape on the rug or floor.

Then create a "smile circle" in which you begin by attaching the name or picture of a nice, friendly character, such as Little Red Riding Hood, at the 12:00 position on the circle, followed by an evil or unhappy character, such as the Wolf, alternating all the way around the circle. Invite kids to add a sentence for each character in turn. For example:

- ☆ Little Red Riding Hood smiled at the Wolf.
- ★ The Wolf smiled at Granny (and didn't eat her).
- ★ Granny smiled at the Troll.
- ★ The Troll smiled at the Three Billy Goats Gruff (and didn't knock them off of the bridge).

If you are using pictures of the characters, make the whole activity even more fun by having a package of smiling-lips stickers on hand to affix to each character.



ACTIVITY #2

Smiling is **super** important.

Just ask **Birdy!**



My Favorite Place to **Smile!**

Everyone has at least one place that they love to be, whether in their own home, a home of a person they love to visit, or a special place they have only visited once or twice. Ask each child to think of the place that brings the biggest smile of all to his or her face. Ask them to bring a smiling photo of themselves from home. Cut out the child's image and glue it to a large sheet of paper. Now ask children to draw in the background of their favorite smiling place.

ACTIVITY #3

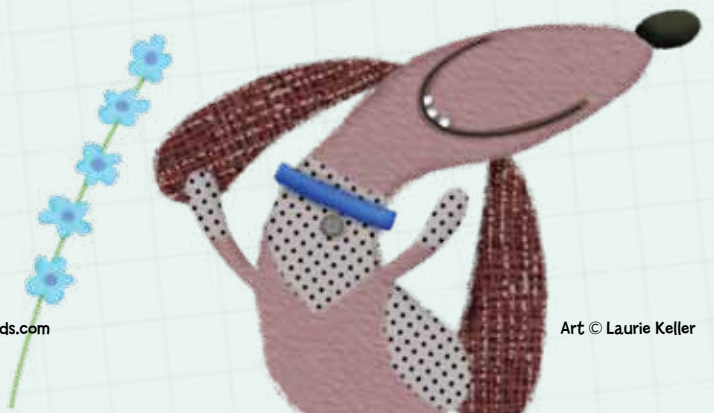
You Can **Smile** When You Do ANYTHING

Birdy makes a list of ten things you can do and smile while doing them. Someone sneaks in an eleventh thing ("Eat broccoli") that Birdy is sure you CANNOT smile about. Challenge students to use the activity sheet on the next page to create their own list of ten things you can do while smiling and one thing (in the text box at the bottom) that makes smiling impossible.

ACTIVITY #4

Smile—It's Contagious!

Birdy claims that smiles are contagious. Ask your students to give examples from their own experience of smiles spreading from one person to another. Next, challenge students to keep a smile log where they record each instance in which they smile at someone in an effort to gain a smile in return, using the Smile Log. Award a smile sticker or bookmark to the top smile-winner each day.



This **smile** list belongs to

Smiling is easy. You can **smile** when you:



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

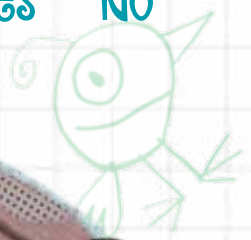
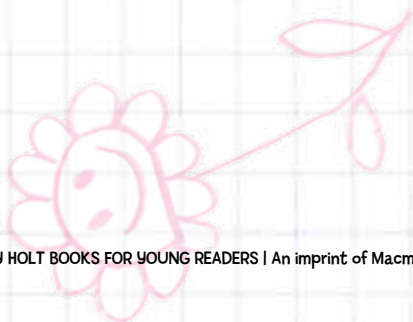
But you cannot **smile** when...



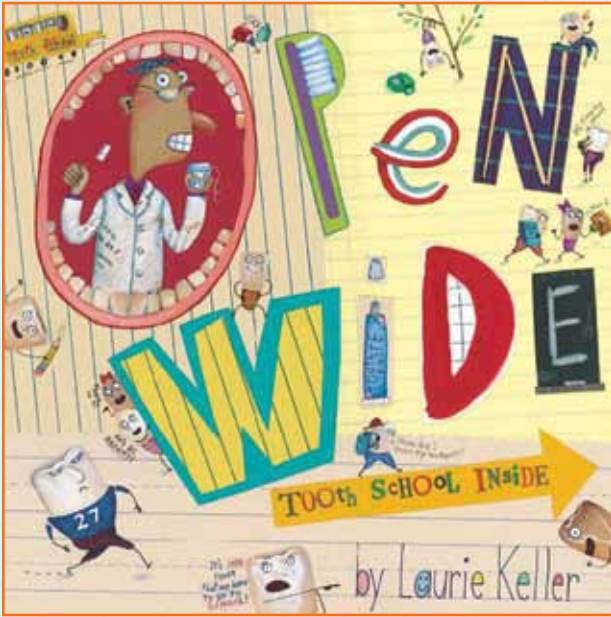
This **Smile** log belongs to



Date	Smile Target	Location	Successful?	
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	Yes	No



Teeth Make the Smile



As Birdy notes in Laurie Keller's book **Birdy's Smile Book**, President George Washington didn't smile much because he had only one natural tooth. All of his other (false) teeth were made from hippo ivory and cow teeth, Birdy says. After reading **Open Wide: Tooth School Inside**, invite children to write a letter to George Washington when he was a boy. Ask them to tell him that they can see into his future and that unless he changes his ways, he's headed for a lifetime of closed-mouth portraits. Instruct them to tell George exactly what he needs to do to keep his own teeth healthy, strong, and attached. They may want to offer some of the special tools, products, and procedures we have available in the twenty-first century to keep our teeth (and smiles) healthy.

OPEN WIDE: TOOTH SCHOOL INSIDE

HC ISBN: 978-0-8050-6192-5

PB ISBN: 978-0-8050-7268-6

A NICK JR. MAGAZINE Best Book of the Year

Smile your way through Laurie Keller's other books too!

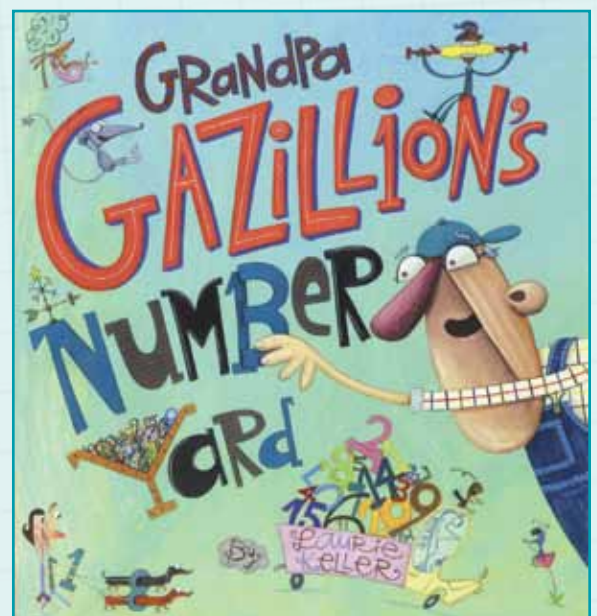


A Number Made Them Smile

In Laurie Keller's book **Grandpa Gazillion's Number Yard**, Grandpa explains that in the number yard, "Numbers aren't used just for counting these days. Old numbers help people in many new ways." After reading the book, prepare a basket full of numbers (zero through either ten or twenty) and ask children, in pairs, to select a number and then come up with a way to use that number to make Grandpa Gazillion and Hildegard smile. If time allows, invite each team to illustrate their number in smile-inspiring action.

GRANDPA GAZILLION'S NUMBER YARD

HC ISBN: 978-0-8050-6282-3



Smile When You Say That!

In Laurie Keller's book **Do Unto Otters**, Owl teaches Mr. Rabbit how to have good manners. After reading the book, make a list of all of the good manners that Owl teaches Mr. Rabbit. Then invite children to add to the list, ensuring that it is as complete as possible. Next, ask children to sort each item on the list by drawing or adding a sticker of a face next to it. Begin by looking for all of the actions that should be done with a smile. Draw or affix a smiley face next to each. Discuss what other facial expressions might be needed for the items not labeled with a smile. While none of the items will require a frown, it may be necessary to use a sad face, an apologetic face, or an embarrassed face. Decide what each of those expressions looks like and then label the remaining items. If time allows, role-play each of the scenarios with appropriate facial expressions.

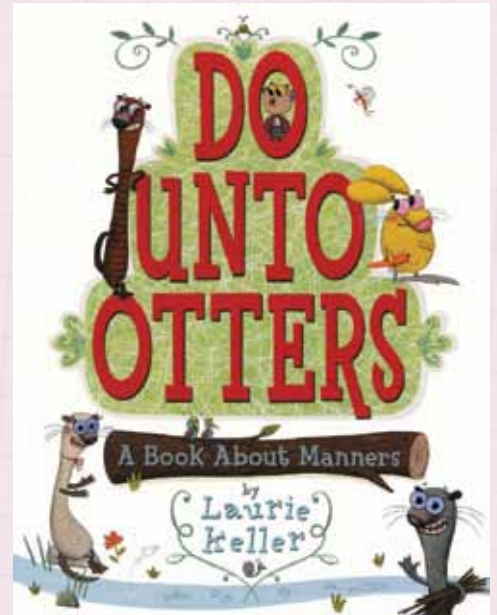


DO UNTO OTTERS

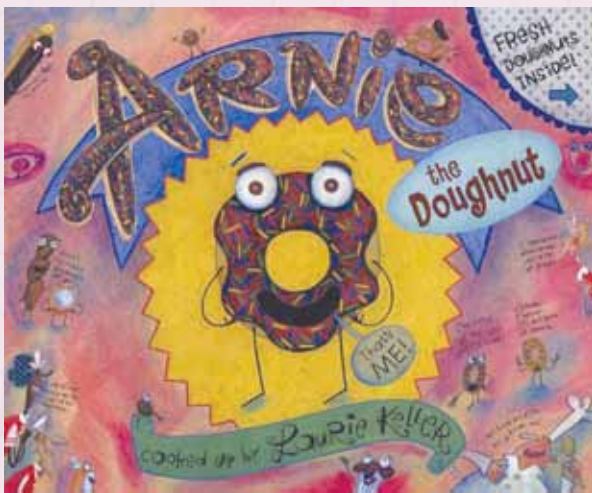
HC ISBN: 978-0-8050-7996-8

SQUARE FISH PB ISBN: 978-0-312-58140-4

#1 on Amazon Best of 2007 Top Ten Children's Picture Books



Make Them Smile!



In Laurie Keller's book **Arnie, the Doughnut**, Mr. Bing has a problem. Now that Arnie has a name and a personality, Mr. Bing just can't bring himself to eat him. However, he's determined to come up with a role for Arnie so that he won't feel that he has wasted his money. Mr. Bing and Arnie each think of six things Mr. Bing can do with Arnie, besides eating him. Challenge each child to come up with another possibility (hopefully one that makes them smile) and illustrate it. Then post all entries on a smile-o-meter (similar to a thermometer) with the very funniest entry in the top position.

ARNIE, THE DOUGHNUT

HC ISBN: 978-0-8050-6283-0

A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW Notable Book

A PUBLISHERS WEEKLY Best Children's Book

A PUBLISHERS WEEKLY Editors' Pick

Laurie Keller is the author and illustrator of many popular books for children, including *Birdy's Smile Book*; *The Scrambled States of America Talent Show*; *Do Unto Otters*; *Grandpa Gazillion's Number Yard*; *Arnie, the Doughnut*; *Open Wide: Tooth School Inside*; and *The Scrambled States of America*. She lives in North Muskegon, Michigan. For more information, visit www.lauriekeller.com.

BIRDY'S SMILE BOOK

Henry Holt / Christy Ottaviano Books

Grade Range: K to 3, Age Range: 5 to 8

HC ISBN: 978-0-8050-8883-0

