

Let Macmillan CHILDREN'S
PUBLISHING GROUP

..... Inspire Your

Storytime

TIPS *for* HOSTING
a SUCCESSFUL
STORYTIME



BEST STORYTIME PRACTICES

This guide will give librarians ideas for best practices on choosing storytime books, reading in storytime, and having a successful storytime, along with other storytime materials. Also featured are some title-specific programming ideas and activities to host in your library. Public librarians will gain valuable storytime skills and have ideas for seven different programs based on Macmillan Children's Publishing Group titles.



CHOOSING BOOKS

- Books with repetitive phrases, like *Peep and Egg: I'm Not Hatching* by Laura Gehl, work well for both toddlers and preschoolers. They give the crowd a chance to participate in the refrain.
- Books that have relatable situations are a good choice for storytime. *Music Class Today!* by David Weinstone shows a music class that looks very much like a storytime! Children will be able to see themselves in the story.
- Books that are funny, like *Everyone Loves Bacon* by Kelly DiPucchio, are some of the best choices for preschoolers and school-age storytime. The punchline at the end of the book is sure to get a lot of laughter.

HOW TO READ IN STORYTIME

- Emphasize some words to make reading dynamic. In *Babies Ruin Everything* by Matthew Swanson, several words are printed in italics. Read those words with a loud, whiny voice to capture the distress of a reluctant big sister.
- If a book has dialogue, consider getting a co-reader to help each character have a distinctive voice. If not, lower your voice for one speaker and raise your voice for another. Adam Rex's *School's First Day of School* gives you ample opportunity to practice your voice!
- Be active during storytime—especially if you have a large group. Act out ninja motions in *Ninja! Attack of the Clan* by Arree Chung. Invite the kids to participate with you if you have enough space in your library or room.



STORYTIME MATERIALS

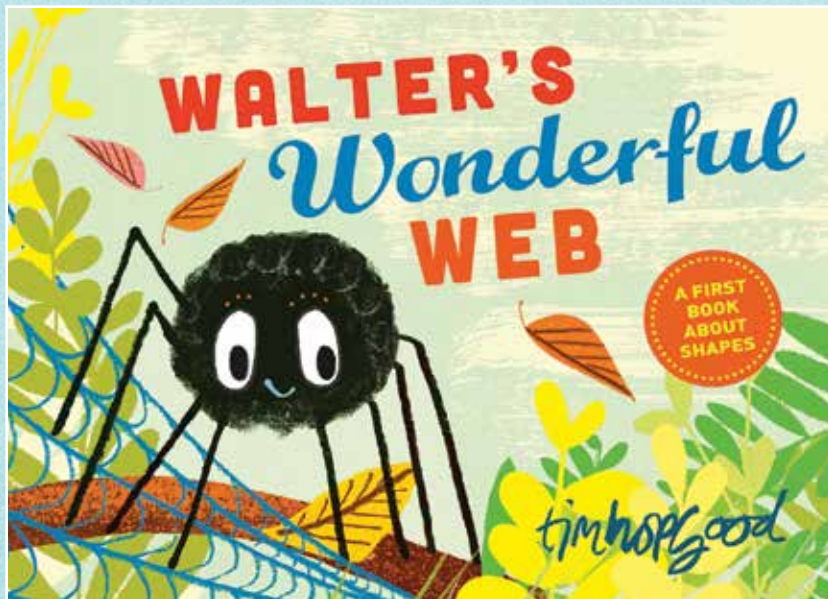
Choose a variety of materials to use in storytime.

- Bring in some fall leaves (fake or real) when you read *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* by Kenard Pak for the kids to see and/or touch.
- Make flannelboard pieces to go with books that you read.
- Give your voice a break between stories and use some recorded music. Have a dance party with the kids.

HAVING A SUCCESSFUL STORYTIME

- Plan ahead to get your materials together and to advertise within your library.
- Practice, practice, practice! Consider letting a co-worker observe you and give feedback of your storytime—especially if it's your first time.
- Make sure you have plenty of time before your storytime to set up the room and take a few deep breaths prior to letting your patrons in.
- Set rules for your patrons to follow and explain them before you start.
- Have an opening and closing routine to signal to the children when storytime is about to begin/end.

BOOK-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

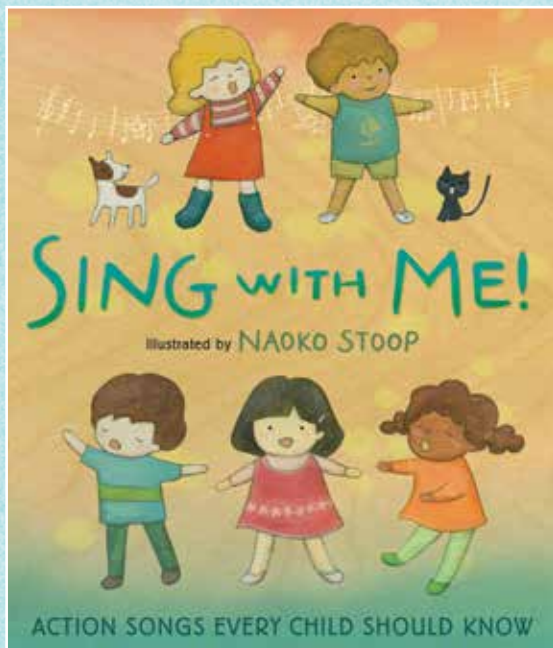


WALTER'S Wonderful WEB

by TIM HOPGOOD

9780374303525 • Ages 2-4 • August 2016

1. Use the questions at the end of the book to extend the book. Count the sides of each shape with the kids. This is a great early math skill.
2. Give each child paper cut-outs of the shapes mentioned in the book. Ask them to sort them in buckets at the front of the room. Or make flannelboard pieces and invite all the kids to bring their triangles up. Continue until all the shapes are on the board.
3. Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" with the group. Sing the song a second time using Walter's name: "The Itsy Bitsy Walter"!



SING WITH ME!

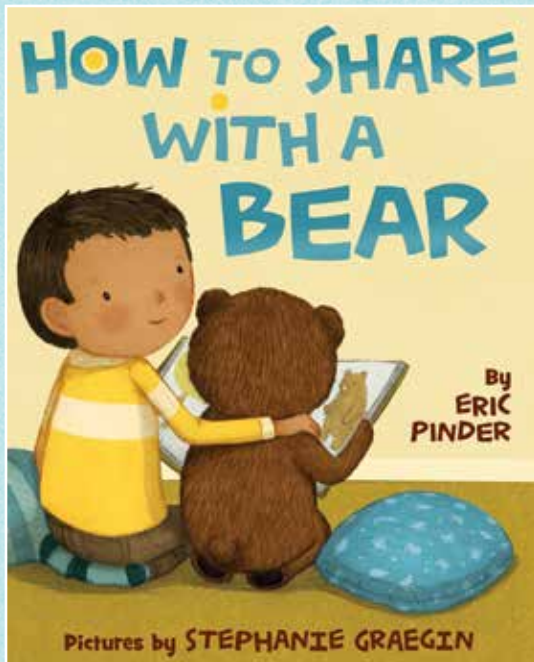
illustrated by NAOKO STOOP

9780805099041 • Ages 1-4 • July 2016

1. Use this book in a storytime session, choosing one rhyme per storytime class to highlight and do with the children.
2. Provide extra copies in storytime for families to check out and use at home.



BOOK-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES



HOW TO SHARE WITH a BEAR

by ERIC PINDER

pictures by STEPHANIE GRAEGIN

9780374300197 • Ages 2–6

SPECIAL
STORYTIME
EVENT

1. After reading the book, ask children to partner up with either their grown-up or a storytime friend. Provide plenty of cardboard boxes. Challenge the children to make their own fort just like the story.
2. Make simple flannelboard pieces of blueberries, a back scratcher, bath toys, and honey oat cereal. Ask the children to help you order the story on the board.
3. Host a Family Fort Night. Ask families to bring pillows and blankets to the library. Open the event with a reading of this book and then invite families to curl up in their forts for shared book reading.



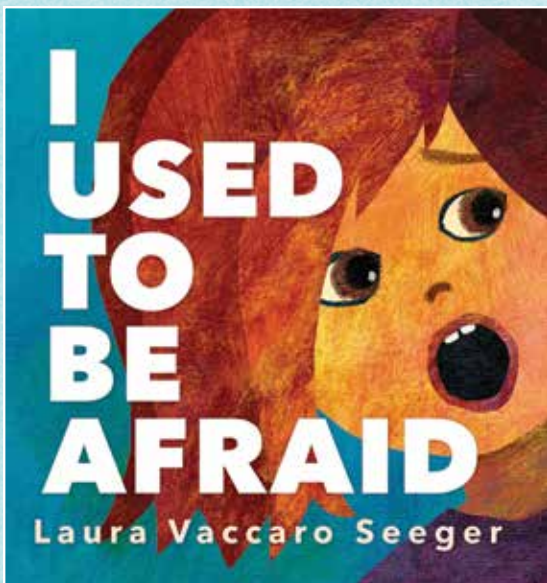
THE AIRPORT BOOK

by LISA BROWN

9781626720916 • Ages 5–7 • May 2016

SPECIAL
STORYTIME
EVENT

1. Host this storytime event before a busy travel time in your community (summer vacation, holidays, spring break, etc.). Read the book to help prepare children for airport travel.
2. Suggest activities for parents and kids to create to take on the plane with them: coloring books, travel bingo, cloud flash cards, or memory books.
3. Set up a display of CDs, children's books, and adult travel guides for patrons to check out afterwards to take on their trip.



I USED TO BE AFRAID

by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

9781596436312 • Ages 4–7



1. Make shadow puppets on transparency sheets. Use a projector to tell a familiar story. Or teach the children how to make shadow puppets with their hands.
2. Play a spider web game. Sit in a circle and toss a ball of white yarn to one child/parent pair. Tell each child/parent to hold onto the yarn before they toss it to someone else. Soon there will be a spider web in your circle.



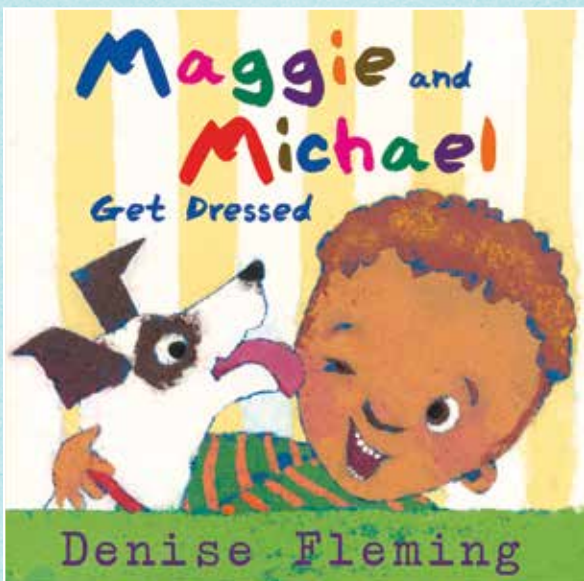
GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO AUTUMN

by Kenard Pak

9781627794152 • Ages 3–7 • August 2016



1. Talk about the changes of the seasons that are shown in the book. Have a checklist pre-written and ask the children to come up and check off if they've felt the wind, seen leaves change, heard thunder, etc.
2. Match photographs of animals hibernating with their houses. Teach the vocabulary words like "habitats," "hibernate," and "dens."
3. To give storytime an extra spark, wear a red scarf like our protagonist as you read.



MAGGIE AND MICHAEL GET DRESSED

by Denise Fleming

9780805087949 • Ages 2–6

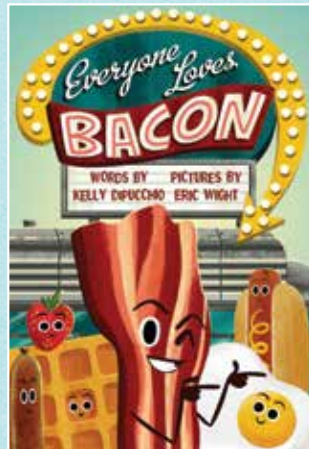


1. Have caregivers point to their child's body part to match the clothes Michael is dressing Maggie in while you read the book. For example, when Michael puts on the yellow socks, caregivers would point to their child's feet.
2. Since the book focuses so much on colors, call attention to the colors worn in storytime. If a child is also wearing red sneakers like Maggie or Michael, point that out.
3. Play a game with clothing. Ask the children to follow simple direction: "If you're wearing blue pants, jump twice!" / "If you're wearing a yellow shirt, clap your hands!"

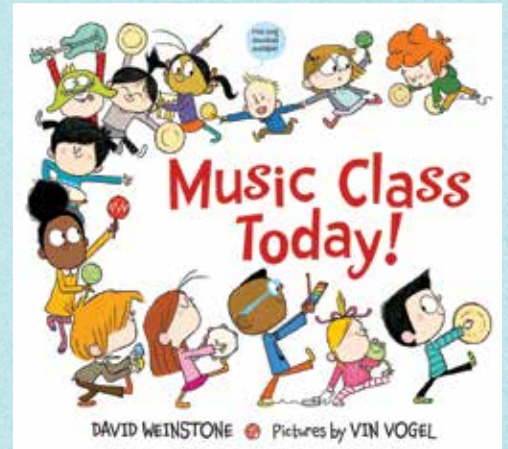
Other Featured Titles



BABIES RUIN EVERYTHING
9781250080578 • Ages 3–7
July 2016



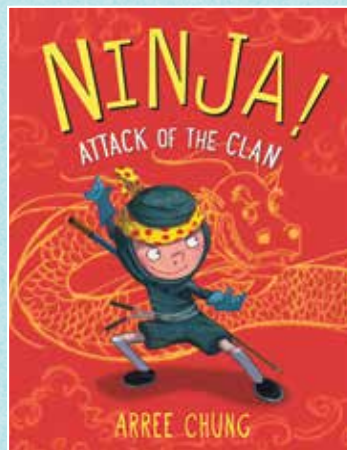
EVERYONE LOVES BACON
9780374300524 • Ages 3–6



MUSIC CLASS TODAY!
9780374351311 • Ages 1–3



PEEP and EGG: I'M NOT HATCHING
9780374301217 • Ages 2–6



NINJA! ATTACK OF THE CLAN
9780805099164 • Ages 4–7
June 2016



SCHOOL'S FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
9781596439641 • Ages 4–8
June 2016



pictures by STEPHANIE GRAEGIN

Guide prepared by KATIE SALO,
an EARLY LITERACY LIBRARIAN IN THE CHICAGO SUBURBS