

Your **ARROW** Reader Now

Grades 4–6

May 2007

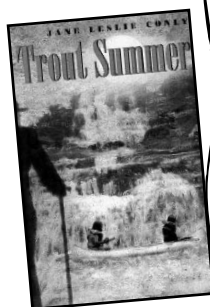
Get
Your Arrow Reader Now
Every Month
at www.scholastic.com/read.

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your
May Book Club flyer.

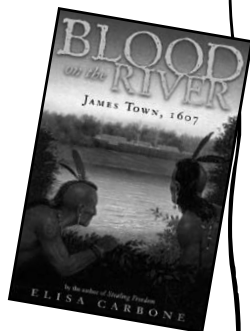
Trout Summer by Jane Leslie Conly

Who it's for: Kids who like
a good adventure
Why we chose it: The
exciting tale of survival is a
great pick-me-up.
Kids weigh in: "Cody and
Shana's fate had me turning
the pages."



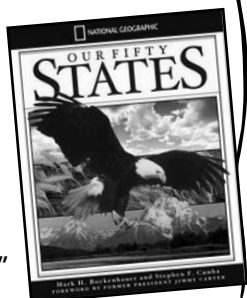
Blood on the River: James Town, 1607 by Elisa Carbone

Who it's for: History buffs
who want an orphan's take
on the year 1607.
Why we chose it: To
celebrate the 400th
anniversary of the James
Town settlement
Kids weigh in: "I really
like when authors put
fictional characters in
real events."



National Geographic's Our Fifty States

Who it's for: Social
studies enthusiasts
Why we chose it:
Features interesting facts
about our country
Kids weigh in:
"Each state has something
pretty cool to boast about."

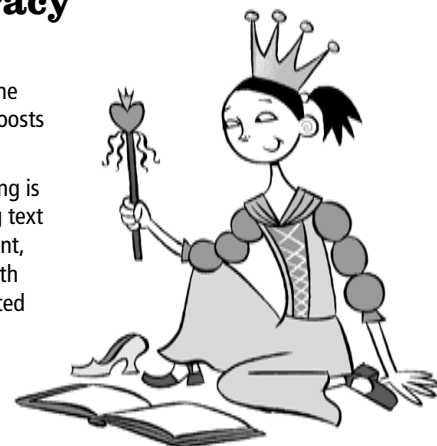


Get Creative with Literacy

Artistic activities do more than stretch your child's imagination — they give her a chance to flex skills she needs as a strong reader. Try these creative literacy boosts together:

- **Introduce visual arts.** We often think that reading is only about printed words, but a key to understanding text is being able to visualize it. Have your child draw, paint, or mold from clay scenes from a story you've read with her. Specifically, ask her to create a scene not illustrated in the book. This will help her develop visualization skills. Does she depict the character/setting as the author describes? Can she explain the scene she's depicted as well as what happens before and after? Encourage her to imagine details (wardrobe, weather, etc.) that the author doesn't describe.
- **Get dramatic.** Following a character's role in a drama teaches elements that are important to reading fluency as well as comprehension — story sequencing, climax, plot, characterization, and reading with expression. Have your child pick a favorite book where the action revolves around three or four characters, then help him turn the story into a play. Together, you can form a Readers Theater where you and your child read the parts with dramatic emphasis. Or help him organize a cast of friends to stage the play (complete with props and costumes).

- **Put it to music.** Like poetry, songs let your child test the boundaries of language and self-expression. If your grade schooler isn't interested in writing poetry, but is enthusiastic about music, encourage her to write song lyrics. Putting original words to a well-known tune is a great start. Thinking about the "story" behind the music is also a great way to introduce concepts such as mood. For instance, have her imagine producing a movie based on the book she's reading. Which songs would she put on a soundtrack, based on lyrics and melody? Fast-paced rock? Love songs?



Parent to Parent

Even though my 5th grader doesn't like reading, she loves art. When I found out her art class assigned her to report on an artist, I was shocked that she already was halfway through a book on Paul Cezanne. When she finished, we went straight to the library for more artist biographies.
—Theodora D.

Ask an Expert

How can I keep my tween interested in reading?

In reading, like everything else, you are still an important role model. Try these activities to get your child reading and be sure to let him see you read.

Join the club. Tweens are very social. Mother-daughter or father-son book clubs are a great way to get kids to read and to talk about books.

Read together. Get your own copy of novels your child is reading for school or even for pleasure.

Read anytime, anywhere. He doesn't have to sit with a book to read for pleasure. Kids this age are interested in activities like cooking, so find interesting cookbooks and recipes, then read and cook together. And of course there's the Internet! Your child can find lots to read (especially material for research) online. Sites for museums and arts institutions are usually good, safe places for kids to visit.

Offer magazines and more. Weekly news magazines, the sports page, and other periodicals provide great content and context for reading for pleasure and information.

Encourage freedom. Teens and tweens like to make their own selections. As feasible, let your child choose her own books from the library and for purchase.

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander is a vice president at Scholastic, where her focus is on creating materials that help kids learn to read.

Find more expert advice for your reader at www.scholastic.com/read.

Tell Us a Tale!

Long, long before there were movies, radios, or even written stories, there were storytellers. Storytelling improves vocabulary, prediction skills, sequencing, and memory — all of which are essential to reading. Storytellers also use creativity to make a tale come to life. Follow the steps.

Step 1: Choose a story.

Folktales and legends from other cultures are especially fun to perform and will grab your audience's attention. Look for short, imaginative tales such as *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*, *Seven Chinese Brothers*, *Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*, or *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*.

Be ready to recreate the story and make it into your own.

Step 2: Read the story 4-5 times.

Don't try to learn it by heart. Instead, remember the facts and details, including the order in which things happen, characters' names and their feelings, and descriptions of locations or sounds.

Step 3: Outline what happens.

List each scene in the order it occurs. For "Three Little Pigs" you might list: Scene 1, the first pig's straw house; Scene 2, a village street; Scene 3, the second pig's wooden house; and so on.

Step 4: Describe each scene.

Write descriptions of the settings and characters' actions using the book and these questions as guides:

- Where and when do the scenes take place?
- Who is in the scene?
- What happens?
- How can you use movements to illustrate the action (for example, pretending to open a door)?
- Besides characters' words, what sounds are heard (thunder, birds chirping, etc.)?

Step 5: Use your imagination.

Ask yourself if there are ways to make the action more exciting, like having your hero drive a racecar instead of ride a horse. Don't be afraid to add or change things — that's part of the storytelling tradition! Add the new scenes or descriptions to your outline.

Step 6: Create a script.

Using quotes from the book or lines you write yourself, add dialogue to each scene. Be sure the dialogue fits the order of events. The final script will include narration (where you describe the setting and characters' actions) and dialogue (when you become the characters speaking their lines and even acting like them). Add notes that describe how you need to move or act as you speak.

Step 7: Perform it!

Practice reading the script over and over until you can tell the story without looking at the paper. You don't have to memorize it perfectly, though. Feel free to add on or alter the story as you perform it for family, friends, or in a real storytelling contest!



Find the Perfect Book for Your Child

If your child's school uses Guided Reading Levels (GRL) or a Grade Level Equivalency (RL), use this chart to find perfect on-level books from your Arrow May Book Club flyer.

Title	GRL	RL
The Adventures of Vin Fiz	4.2	O
Among the Dolls	4.5	Q
Blood on the River: James Town, 1607	4.8	U
Burning Up	4.9	N/R
Camp Confidential Pack	4.7-5.2	S
Castaways Pack	5-5.2	T-U
Catching Waves	4.2	--
Eldest	7.8	W
Explorers Wanted! Pack	7.4-9.5	X-Z
Fire Star	5.4	T
Ghost Ship	5.6	X
Gossamer	5.3	T
Isabel of the Whales	4.0	--
May Bird and the Ever After	4.8	T
Minerva Clark Goes to the Dogs	5.5	--
Outstanding in My Field	4.5	R
Portraits: Dancing Through Fire	4.3	S
Project Mulberry	3.7	S
Red Kayak	4.8	T
Replay	6.1	Y
Roald Dahl Pack	3.5-5.9	N-U
Shiloh	5.7	R
Summer of Riley	4.1	R
Trout Summer	5.9	T

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Arrow Reader Now

Your Arrow Reader Now is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit All About Reading at www.scholastic.com/read.

Beyond Books

As May flowers begin to bloom, take your child on a nature walk. Bring along art supplies so she can paint or draw the trees, bugs, birds, and spring blossoms you encounter. Then provide her with an illustrated nature encyclopedia so your artist can identify the flora and fauna.

Circle Your Calendar

May 16 is Biographer's Day! Have everyone in the family choose a favorite author, and then find a book from the library that chronicles his life.