

# Your LUCKY Reader Now

Grades 2-3

May 2007

Get  
**Your Lucky Reader Now**  
Every Month

at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Lucky  
May Book Club flyer.

### Squids Will Be Squids by Jon Scieszka

#### Who it's for:

Readers who appreciate a  
good laugh

**Why we chose it:** With the  
end of school coming up, a  
silly story is needed!

**Parents say:** "Scieszka and  
[illustrator Lane] Smith are a  
can't-miss combo."



### Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

#### Who it's for:

Everyone — this book is  
a classic

**Why we chose it:** No one  
should miss the story of Billy  
and his dogs.

**Parents say:**  
"A perfect chapter book for  
reading together."



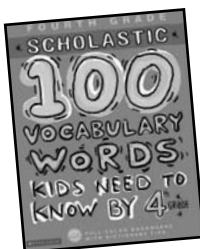
### Scholastic's 100 Vocabulary Words Kids Need to Know by 4th Grade

#### Who it's for:

Students on the verge of  
graduating to the next  
grade

**Why we chose it:** Puzzles,  
stories, facts, and more make  
vocab-building fun.

**Parents say:**  
"A definite must-have for our  
reference shelf."



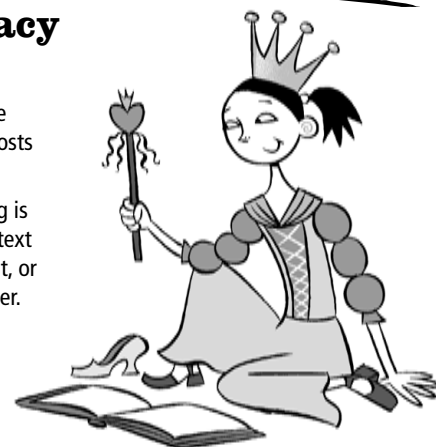
## Get Creative with Literacy

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

My son was so excited about being  
cast in a classroom play that he  
wanted to practice lines with me.  
Little did he know it was the reading-  
aloud practice I was excited about!  
—Beverly W.

## Ask an Expert

## Help! How can I get my child to read more?

Kids today are super-busy — lots to do and little time. However, just like playing an instrument or a sport, reading requires practice, practice, and more practice. Here are three ideas for getting kids to practice more so they'll read better:

1. **Read all about it.** Involve them in activities that have a reading element.
  - Cooking: Recipes and labels
  - Traveling: Maps, signs, and guides
  - Keeping up with current events: Magazines and newspapers
2. **Read together.** Schedule a time each day where everyone reads. It is a good time for you to catch up on your reading, to set a great example, and for your child to do reading homework.
3. **Reading Record.** Help your child keep track of books read. Have him record the book, author, and a brief impression.

**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](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

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## 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 race-car 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 Lucky May Book Club flyer.

Title	GRL	RL
Alice in Wonderland	5.9	V
American Girl: A Samantha Mystery: The Curse of the Ravenscourt	4.8	R
Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure	4.8	S
Before I Made History Pack	3.4-3.5	N-O
Black Lagoon Adventures: The Little League Team from the Black Lagoon	2.1	L
The Boxcar Children Pirate Pack	3.5	O
Captain Underpants Pack	3.5-5.2	O-T
Champ	4.1	--
Dracula	2.4	--
The Extraordinary Life: The Story of a Monarch Butterfly	6.7	--
Freckle Juice	3.6	M
The Gypsy Game	5.9	U
Horrible Harry Pack	2.2-3.8	L
Jack Prelutsky Pack	3.8-4.9	O
Jack Russell: Dog Detective: The Awful Pawful	2.6	M
Junie B., First Grader Pack	2.1-2.6	M
Princess for a Week	3.3	N
Punished!	4.3	Q
Scholastic Atlas of Oceans	5.0	O
Socks	5.4	Q
Squids Will Be Squids	6.1	N/R
That Crazy Eddie and the Science Project of Doom	3.1	M
Ulysses Moore: The Door to Time	4.6	S
Where the Red Fern Grows	6.4	X

## Did You Know?

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

## 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.

Find out more about leveled reading at [www.scholastic.com/yourreader](http://www.scholastic.com/yourreader).

### About Your Lucky Reader Now

Your Lucky Reader Now is produced by the editorial staff at [Scholastic.com/parents](http://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](http://www.scholastic.com/read).