

# Your SeeSaw Reader Now

Grades K-1

March 2004

## Let's Go to the Library!

Public libraries are stocked with books waiting to be discovered. Use these book-borrowing basics to share the riches with your reader.

**1) Get familiar.** Spend one afternoon just exploring the library with your child so she can see what's available and become comfortable. Meet the librarians, find out about special events, and remind her of proper conduct such as speaking quietly.

**2) Sign up.** Even if you already have a library card, let your child sign up for her own. Make it a special occasion and explain that now she can "try out" any book she likes.

**3) Check out.** Your reader can usually borrow books (as well as tapes or videos) for one to three weeks depending on how new the material is. If she's not ready to return it by the due date, you might be able to renew the item. Even if she just wants to renew (which you can often do by phone or online), go back to the library, browse the books together, and point out other titles that she might love.

**4) Bring it home.** On your family calendar, mark the due dates for books you borrow. Explain to your child that this is the day she'll return the books — and can get new ones! Keep the branch's phone number nearby so you can call ahead to see if popular books are in.

**5) Teach responsibility.** One of the best things about the library is that it's free — unless you return items late. In that case, you have to pay a fine. It may be reduced for children's items, but daily fines of 5 cents to 2 dollars can add up. You'll also have to pay for damaged or lost books. If these situations arise, use them as an opportunity to teach your child about being responsible and respectful.

For more facts about using your library, visit [www.scholastic.com/read/libraries](http://www.scholastic.com/read/libraries)



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## Help Your Child Get the Best Resources at School

Every time you purchase books from the *SeeSaw Book Club*, your child's classroom earns Bonus Points. Teachers can use the points for FREE books and learning materials from Scholastic!

## Daily Reading Fun

Make a poster celebrating Children's Authors and Illustrators Week (March 2-8). Write out the title of your child's favorite picture book, then have her decorate it with her own artwork illustrating scenes from the story. Hang it on her bedroom door.

### Did You Know?

March is Women's History Month — a great time to read *Frida, the story of artist Frida Kahlo*, by Jonah Winter.

## Beyond Books

Next time you visit the library, take your child on a tour of the reference area. Show him an encyclopedia and let him look through the volume for his favorite letter. Open an atlas. And wow him with the oversized dictionary that probably weighs as much as him!



## Ask an Expert

### How should I choose books for my first grader?

Select books according to how they might be used. For read-alouds, choose entertaining books well above his reading level. These develop listening skills and increase vocabulary. Books that you read together (read-withs) should be at or slightly above your child's reading level so he can read all of it to you, or you can take turns. Also select read-alones, books your child can enjoy on his own without help (even if he is just starting to read). These may be books the two of you read together often, or look for books that have few words and bright pictures that offer clues about the text.

**Meet Our Expert:** *Susan E. Canizares is the author of numerous nonfiction books for children and articles for parents and teachers. She has a MA in special education and a Ph.D. in language and literacy development.*

Have a question about reading? Find advice at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

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# Set Up a Reading Corner!

Your child's classroom probably has a reading center with a comfortable area where your child can relax and read. Use these tips and set one up in your own home to encourage him to enjoy time alone with books.

- Find a spot where your reader won't be distracted by TVs and video or computer games.
- Set up simple, low shelves to hold his books.
- Add a comfy seat — beanbag chairs or large pillow cushions will make it cozy and inviting.
- Give him an easy-to-use tape player/recorder that he can use to listen to books on tape or to dictate stories (read or imagined) into for playback.
- Help him create a writer's box filled with paper, pencils, and crayons, which he can use to make his own books.
- Curl up here together for read alouds!



# Editors' Pick of the Month

Available in your *SeeSaw April Book Club* flyer.

*The Scrambled States of America*  
by Laurie Keller

Geography Gets Personal!



**Who it is for:** Beginning readers on the hunt for humor and information

**Why we chose it:** It's one of the most creative geography lessons we've ever seen — presenting facts in a context that makes them tough to forget.

**Parents say:** "My son enjoyed seeing how our state (Kansas) was represented, and he opens the book all the time to learn more."

**Kids say:** "It's a funny story and the facts are cool, too!"

# Go On a Fact Hunt

Think of an animal and a person you want to know more about. Draw a picture of it. Then find three facts about each one from three different places, such as books, magazines, the Internet, other people, or a television show.

**Example:**

**My person:** Martin Luther King Jr.

**Fact 1:** He won the Nobel Peace Prize

**From:** *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport



My animal is:	Fact 1:
	From:
	Fact 2:
	From:
	Fact 3:
	From:
Here's a picture of my animal.	

My person is:	Fact 1:
	From:
	Fact 2:
	From:
	Fact 3:
	From:
Here's a picture of my person.	

# More Books that Make Learning Facts Fun:

- *Scholastic's The Magic School Bus: Flies from the Nest* by Joanna Cole
- *The Magic Tree House: Day of the Dragon King* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *We Are Dolphins* by Molly Grooms

## About Your SeeSaw Reader Now

Your *SeeSaw Reader Now* is produced by the Family Channel editorial staff at Scholastic.com. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit All About Reading. Go to: [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).