

Your SeeSaw Reader Now

Grades K-1

May 2007

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

Editors' Picks of the Month

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

Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the Last Day of Kindergarten by Joseph Slate

Who it's for: Soon-to-be
graduates!

Why we chose it:

Terrific story for the end
of the school year

Kids weigh in: "Now I'm
excited about what our
class will do!"

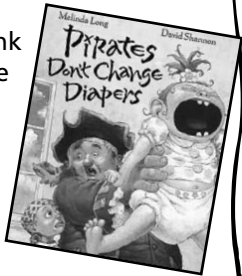


Pirates Don't Change Diapers by Melinda Long

Who it's for: Kids who think
baby-sitters should walk the
plank

Why we chose it: When
you mix babies and pirates,
hilarity ensues.

Kids weigh in: "I
couldn't stop laughing!"



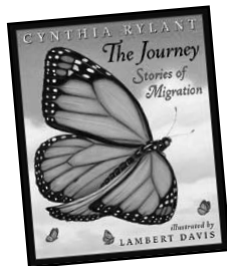
The Journey: Stories of Migration by Cynthia Rylant

Who it's for: Those
fascinated by animals
and nature

Why we chose it:

Monarchs, whales — if it
migrates, it's in here!

Kids weigh in: "My mom
and I read it together."



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.** Give your budding thespian simple costumes and props and let him act out a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. He may only be able to remember a few lines by heart, so instead of using a script, invite him to make up lines as he goes along. This helps him learn the conventions of conversation and expands vocabulary. Acting out a story also teaches story sequence, which is an important foundation for reading comprehension.

- **Put it to music.** Like poetry, songs let your child test the boundaries of language and self-expression. Build her sense of rhythm and boost vocabulary by putting new lyrics to a familiar song, such as "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Read books about music or musicians, such as *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop*, and let her use homemade instruments to imitate the music described in the story.



Parent to Parent

My kid is quite the performer, so whenever she decides to sing a song she made up, I turn on the camcorder. I'll play it back and write down the lyrics so then she can practice her masterpieces.
—Jack D.

Ask an Expert

Can you please explain why storybooks (as opposed to textbooks or reading primers) should be used for a school literacy program?

Storybooks introduce children to real literature, rich and diverse stories and characters, and different genres. Even though many of these books contain words and complexity that might be considered above their age or reading level, many children learn how to read these books easily because they are motivated by the content.

These books also introduce young readers to the wonderful world of words. You have probably heard your child delight in finding and using a new, big word (such as tyrannosaurus) over and over again. Many children can read dinosaur words before they can read color words. Why? Because they are fascinated with dinosaurs!

Literature also can introduce children to many different kinds of books. Children are fascinated with nonfiction as well as fiction and poetry. Perhaps best of all, books introduce children to the art of different authors and illustrators. This helps children learn the craft of writing and illustrating and encourages them to become not only readers but also writers.

Meet Our Expert: *Ellen Booth Church is a columnist and consultant for Scholastic's Parent & Child magazine.*

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

 SCHOLASTIC

www.scholastic.com

Creativity Checklist

Have you shared these experiences with your child? Try them as a way to expose him to the language of self-expression.

Visit an art museum

Discuss the painting, sculpture, or displays and take turns describing a few pieces your child likes best. What "story" does the artwork tell? What does he imagine the artist was doing when creating the piece?

Play different types of music

Expand her repertoire by introducing classical, jazz, country, folk, and rock and roll songs. Use ones that set a mood or have fun lyrics with rhyming elements.

Catch a play

By watching a play, your child learns how people interact. The scene changes help him see that a story has a beginning, middle, and end. Look for performances based on books you've read, which can help him "picture" an interpretation of the story.



Roll & Read Story Box

Write a story and make a moving picture book to display it.

What you need:

- four paper-towel tubes
- one narrow cardboard box
- roll of brown paper
- washable paint, markers, glue, and masking tape
- adult-size scissors and utility knife
- child safety scissors
- ruler
- old magazines

What to do:

1. Create the "case" for his moving picture book. Make holes on each side of the cardboard box about 4 inches from the top and large enough for paper-towel tubes to fit through. Fit one tube through each hole. (If the box is wider than the tube is long, attach two tubes together with masking tape.) Leave about 1 1/2 inches of the tube protruding from either side of the box.
2. Remove the bottom tube and help your child measure the brown paper so it fits the width of the tube. Cut a long strip of paper and fold it like an accordion. Make each fold large enough to be a story frame.
3. Encourage your child to illustrate a story using art materials or magazine cutouts. He can write captions at the bottom of each frame or dictate his words to you.
4. Open up the accordion and tape the end of the story to the bottom paper tube. Ask your child to carefully turn the end of the tube and roll up the story. Tape the top of the story to the top tube. Now your child is ready to roll and 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, using an illustrated nature encyclopedia, help your artist identify the flora and fauna.

Circle Your Calendar

May 16 is Biographer's Day! Have your child choose a favorite author, then find a book from the library about that writer and read it together.

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 SeeSaw May Book Club flyer.

Title	GRL	RL
Animal Alphabet Pack	3.3	L
Bats at the Beach	1.5	J
Biscuit Loves Father's Day	1.4	F
Celebrate! Your Amazing Achievements	1.5	L
Don't Eat the Babysitter!	2.1	I
Dragon Gets By	2.1	L
Fractured Fairy Tales Pack	3.8-5.1	M-N
Freckle Juice	3.6	M
Fun Dog, Sun Dog	3.1	L
Horses	5.5	R
I Knew You Could!	2.2	M
Is There Really a Human Race?	2.2	O
The Journey: Stories of Migration	3.0	N
Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the Last Day of Kindergarten	2.4	J
The Night Before Summer Camp	2.1	L
No More Pencils, No More Books, No More Teacher's Dirty Looks!	3.1	--
Pirates Don't Change Diapers	3.0	M
A Princess Primer: A Fairy Godmother's Guide to Being a Princess	5.4	P
Rainbow Magic Boxed Set	3.0	M
Rhyme Time Pack	1.2	D
Silly Stories Pack	1.9-3.5	J-M
Tiny Goes Camping	1.3	C
Welcome Books: Money Matters Pack	1.5-1.9	E-F

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 SeeSaw Reader Now

Your SeeSaw 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.