

Book Talk for Families

When families are involved in their children's literacy,
children are more successful in school!

This guide and book pack has everything you need to
read and discuss books in a fun, meaningful way with your child.

With this "Challenges and Solutions" book pack, your child will

- activate their **problem-solving skills** and build **resilience**.
- make **personal connections** to books and to you.
- develop a deeper **understanding** of stories.



INSIDE:

- Conversation starters for each book
- Tips to supercharge your child's reading

Building Literacy as a Family

Try these easy, powerful ways to help your child enjoy reading while growing their skills.

Plus, check out the last page of this guide for a fun, online way to help your child enjoy reading!

4 Ways to Supercharge Your Child's Reading

1 Try to build in **20 minutes of reading together** each day.

Reading together before bed can be a special routine for slowing down and bonding. Or bring a book on the go (like to a laundromat).

2 Help your child **check their understanding through retelling**.

Encourage your child to regularly pause and describe what has happened in the story. If they are unsure, help them to go back and reread sections. Explain that readers regularly use this strategy when they are uncertain about what they have read.

3 Help your child deepen their understanding of a text by **tracking how characters change** and develop in a story.

Ask questions like, "How is the character different now than they were at the start?" (For example, the character was shy, then found their confidence.) Ask your child to point to specific examples in the character's thoughts, words, or actions that support this.

4 Guide your child to **see themselves in a story**, which helps them relate more deeply to it.

Look for positive qualities (like bravery and teamwork) in the stories you read with your child. Help them connect what's happening in the story to moments where they—or you—showed these qualities in real life.



SCHOLASTIC INC.

Photos © cover: Rudzhan Nagiev/Getty Images; back cover: Irina Shumikhina/Getty Images; 1: Elena Yakovlieva/Getty Images; 7: Elena Yakovlieva/Getty Images. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. Copyright © 2023 by Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Inc. • SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012

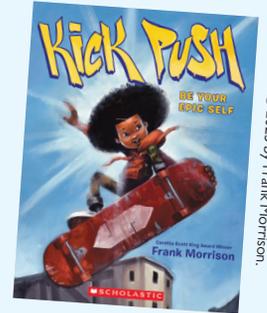
Family Book Talk

Busy families may find it challenging to find time to read the books their children are reading. It may be easier to find a few moments in the day—even while doing the dishes, walking the dog, or before bed—for book chats. Use these book reflection connections to help your child grow as a reader.

BOOK 1: *Kick Push: Be Your Epic Self*

DESCRIPTION

When Epic moves to a new neighborhood, he feels like he has to change his hobbies to fit in with other kids. In the end though, he finds that it's best to stay true to himself!



TALKING TIPS

Part One Pages 1–9

- **Important Moment:** Epic moves to a new neighborhood with his family but does not fit in right away.
- **Ask and Share:** How do you think Epic feels when he moves to the new neighborhood? Have you ever had mixed feelings when you moved to a new place or to a new school?

Part Two Pages 10–17

- **Important Moment:** Epic joins other sports besides skateboarding to try to fit in with the other kids.
- **Ask and Share:** Why do you think that Epic decides to do the activities that other kids like instead of what he likes? Was there a time when you felt pressure to do something in order to fit in? How did you handle it?

Part Three Pages 18–27

- **Important Moment:** Epic skates around his new neighborhood one more time at his dad's suggestion.
- **Ask and Share:** How does Epic act differently when he is skateboarding compared to when he is doing the activities he doesn't like? What activities make you feel most like yourself?

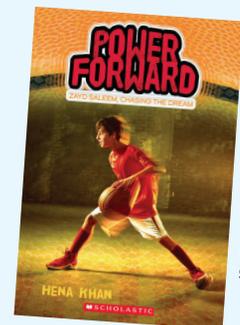
Part Four Pages 28–36

- **Important Moment:** Epic makes a new group of friends who all skateboard together.
- **Ask and Share:** What lesson do you think that Epic learns in the story? Why?

BOOK 2: *Power Forward*

DESCRIPTION

Zayd is desperate to be on the gold basketball team, but his parents think violin lessons are more important. After he makes a mistake that nearly costs him the chance to try out for the team, he learns to stand up for what he really wants.



Cover photo © 2018 by Patrik Giardino.

TALKING TIPS

Part One Pages 1–5

- **Important Moment:** Zayd skips orchestra practice in order to play basketball with his friends.
- **Ask and Share:** Do you think Zayd made a mistake when he decided to skip orchestra practice? Have you ever had to choose between something you wanted to do and something you were supposed to do? How did you handle it?

Part Two Pages 6–10

- **Important Moment:** Zayd's mother finds out he has skipped orchestra practice and forbids him from playing basketball for two weeks.
- **Ask and Share:** Do you think that Zayd's punishment is fair or unfair? What advice would you give him?

Part Three Pages 11–15

- **Important Moment:** Zayd's uncle Jamal encourages him to stand up for what he wants, and Zayd has a talk with his parents about basketball.
- **Ask and Share:** Have you ever had to stand up for something you wanted to do like Zayd does? How did you handle the situation?

Part Four Pages 16–19

- **Important Moment:** Zayd is able to participate in basketball tryouts and makes the team.
- **Ask and Share:** What do you think helps Zayd make the team? Which of these traits have helped you accomplish a goal?

BOOK 3: *Mia Mayhem vs. the Super Bully*

DESCRIPTION

Mia, an eight-year-old superhero, is excited about her first superspeed training class at THE PITS. But a bully on her relay team accuses Mia of not belonging, leading her to lose her shadow and, worse, to snap at her friends.

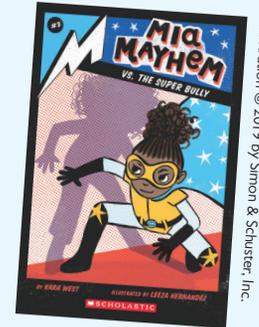


Illustration © 2019 by Simon & Schuster, Inc.

TALKING TIPS

Part One Chapters 1–2

- **Important Moment:** Mia enters her new school for the first time.
- **Ask and Share:** How do you think Mia is feeling? Why? What advice would you give her?

Part Two Chapters 3–5

- **Important Moment:** Hugo is unkind to his teammates after they lose the relay race.
- **Ask and Share:** Have you ever had to work with someone who is acting rude like Hugo? What did you do?

Part Three Chapters 6–7

- **Important Moment:** Mia snaps at Allie and Penn while they help her look for her shadow.
- **Ask and Share:** Why do you think Mia acts that way to her friends when they are trying to help her? Have you ever been unkind to someone when you were feeling frustrated or upset?

Part Four Chapters 8–10

- **Important Moment:** Mia and her team win the contest.
- **Ask and Share:** Why are Mia and her team able to win? What lessons do you think they learn?

BOOK 4: *Pura's Cuentos: How Pura Belpré Reshaped Libraries with Her Stories*

DESCRIPTION

Pura Belpré loves the stories that she grew up with in Puerto Rico, but at the library, she is only allowed to tell stories from books. With bravery and creativity, she brings her stories—and the stories of many others—to children throughout her city.



Illustration © 2021 by Magaly Morales.

TALKING TIPS

Part One Pages 1–11

- **Important Moment:** Pura loves listening to her abuela's stories in Puerto Rico and wants to be a librarian.
- **Ask and Share:** Why are stories so special to Pura? Which stories were most important to you when you were younger?

Part Two Pages 12–20

- **Important Moment:** Pura is only supposed to tell stories from books at story time, but she decides to tell one of her abuela's stories instead.
- **Ask and Share:** Why do you think Pura breaks the library's rule and tells her abuela's story at story time? Have you ever challenged a rule you didn't think was fair?

Part Three Pages 21–26

- **Important Moment:** Pura wants to encourage more children from all backgrounds to enjoy the library.
- **Ask and Share:** How does Pura welcome more people into the library? What are some ways that you welcome new people in your neighborhood or at school?

Part Four Pages 27–32

- **Important Moment:** Pura writes down her abuela's stories to be published in a book.
- **Ask and Share:** What inspires Pura to put her stories into books? How do you think her life might change after she starts writing and translating stories?

BOOK 5: *Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos*

DESCRIPTION

The famous painter Frida Kahlo has many pets throughout her life that inspire her art. When she faces challenges, her animals and her painting help her to persevere!



Illustration © 2017 by John Parra

TALKING TIPS

Part One Pages 1–9

- **Important Moment:** When Frida is young, she spends a lot of time observing nature with her father and being creative.
- **Ask and Share:** How would you describe Frida when she is young? What do you have in common with Frida, and how are you different?

Part Two Pages 10–16

- **Important Moment:** After Frida is in an accident, she creates art while she is healing.
- **Ask and Share:** Why do you think Frida likes to create art when she is sick or injured? What makes you feel better when you are not feeling well?

Part Three Pages 17–24

- **Important Moment:** Frida spends a lot of time with her pets, including her turkeys, spider monkeys, dogs, and parrot.
- **Ask and Share:** How do Frida's animals help her? How does she help her animals? Do you have any animals that are important in your life?

Part Four Pages 25–32

- **Important Moment:** Frida creates many paintings of the animals that are important to her.
- **Ask and Share:** Why do you think that Frida creates so many paintings of her animals? Who or what would you want to include in your paintings?

Literacy Milestones

It's helpful for children to gain the following skills in each grade to keep them moving along on their reading journey. Incorporating literacy activities into your everyday life helps your child develop these skills. If you have concerns or questions about your child's progress, talk to your child's teacher or doctor.

GRADE 2

- **Pick both fiction and nonfiction** books on topics that interest them.
- **Spell** words using common letter patterns and letter-sound relationships.
- Show signs of a growing **vocabulary** and use of language rules when writing and speaking.
- Have ways to **figure out the meaning** of a difficult sentence or paragraph by rereading it or asking questions.
- **Write simple sentences** that end with periods or question marks and check his or her own work.

GRADE 3

- Have increased **fluency**, which is the ability to read text accurately and quickly.
- Read **longer** nonfiction books and chapter books independently for **enjoyment**.
- Be able to **discuss** themes in fiction and **identify** the main idea, details, facts, and opinions in nonfiction.
- Have a rich and growing **vocabulary**.
- Try different kinds of **writing**.

GRADE 4

- Break apart words with **multiple syllables** and **self-correct** mistakes in pronunciation.
- Use **background knowledge** to understand a text.
- Track how **characters change** and develop in a story.
- Use **evidence** to support arguments.
- In discussion, ask **follow-up questions** and agree, partially agree, or disagree.
- **Compare** and contrast stories.
- **Write by organizing** events or ideas in a sequence that makes sense and works well.



Cultivate a Lifelong Love of Reading

Ignite your child's imagination through stories and digital fun!

As parents and family members, you understand the profound impact of literacy on your child's development. Help make the journey engaging and rewarding with Scholastic's Home Base site and app.

With captivating stories spanning various genres and age groups, your child will embark on adventures, explore new worlds, and develop essential language skills in an interactive and engaging way.

On Home Base, your child can

- **discuss** books with others via filtered and monitored chat.
- **interact** with book characters and authors.
- **play** book-related games.
- **create** comics.
- **discover** new books.

As you embark on this reading adventure together, you and your child will not only be sharing quality time but you'll also be fostering a strong bond centered around the joy of reading. Join us in shaping a brighter future for your child—one page at a time!

Visit Home Base:

[scholastic.com/homebase](https://www.scholastic.com/homebase)



You are your child's first and most important teacher.

Your encouragement, support, and guidance is essential for helping your child succeed in school.

THANK YOU
for all that you do!

