

# BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

AUGUST  
2020



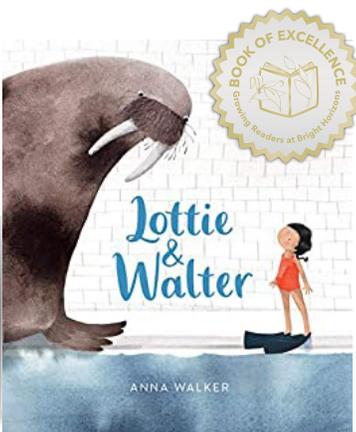
*Books of Excellence and Notable books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.*

## Book of Excellence

### PRESCHOOL

### Lottie & Walter

Written and Illustrated by Anna Walker



Lottie can't go in the pool. The (imagined) shark there will surely eat her. That is, until she meets Walter the (imagined) walrus. Walter likes music, books, and fish sticks—just like Lottie. Best of all, he can vanquish sharks. With Walter at her side, Lottie finds the courage she had inside all along. Soft watercolor illustrations, thoughtful text, and charming characters make this story a favorite!

### Storytelling Tips

Read the story slowly to your child. After finishing the book, take a minute to reflect on it. Talk to your child about the story. Was there ever a time your child felt afraid? What made them feel better? What kind of animal friend would your child choose?

Dive into the pictures. Anna Walker's gentle illustrations are deceptively simple. Take time for a closer look and you'll notice small details on each page.

### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Try using colored pencils, watercolor, and collage to make a layered painting like Anna Walker's.
- ▶ Make up silly songs with nonsensical phrases like "Humbelly doo, lumbelly la, loopy loo."
- ▶ Gently stir together 6 cups warm water, 1 cup dish soap (Dawn regular non-ultra dish soap works best), and 1/4 cup light corn syrup to make a homemade bubble brew. Use straws, lids, or pipe cleaners shaped into rings as bubble blowers.
- ▶ Learn more about sharks and other aquatic animals. Read books or do an online search.

We are proud to partner with The Book Vine for Children on our Growing Readers book selections. [Click here](#) to order these books and more.

# Notable Books

Other great books we recommend.

Snap a photo to link to the *Growing Readers* website for more book recommendations.



## INFANT & TODDLER

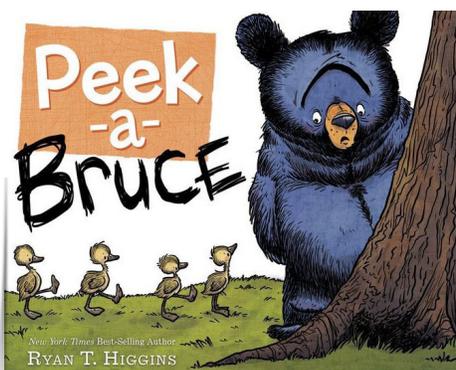
### Peek-a-Bruce

Written and Illustrated by Ryan T. Higgins

Poor Bruce! There's no peace for this bear with four little ducks around. They follow him through the woods, behind a tree, under a rock, into the tub, and even to tea. Finally...the day's over and he falls asleep. But—those four little ducks will be there in the morning.

### Storytelling Tips

Use enthusiasm and animation as you tell the story. Pause on each page to let your child find Bruce. Make a few comments such as, "Look at his face. I wonder how Bruce is feeling. What would you do if you were Bruce?"



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Use boxes, stools, laundry baskets, etc. to make an obstacle course for your child to climb under, over, and through. Encourage them to pretend to be a bear or a duck. Throw a sheet over a table to make a cave for a bear.
- ▶ Play a simple game of hide and go seek.
- ▶ Make some chamomile tea and snuggle together at bedtime to read the story again.

## PRESCHOOL

### *A Piglet Named Mercy*

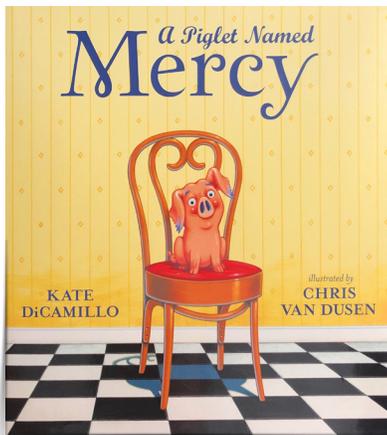
**Written by Kate DiCamillo; Illustrated by Chris Van Dusen**

Mercy Watson the porcine wonder is back and this time we discover how she came to live on Deckawoo Drive. As usual, there are whimsical illustrations, snappy dialogue, and plenty of buttered toast.

#### Storytelling Tips

Read the book ahead of time if you're not familiar with the characters, all of whom are hilarious in their own way. Try to find a voice to use for each one.

Introduce new vocabulary words such as *predictable*, *porcine*, and *absurd*.



#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Let your child help with simple jobs around the house, such as vacuuming, washing the car, or getting the mail.
- ▶ Make buttered toast together.
- ▶ If a pet could end up on your doorstep, what kind of pet would your child choose? What would they name it? If your child is interested, fold and staple paper together to make a booklet. Write a book with illustrations about the pet.

## SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

### Handimals

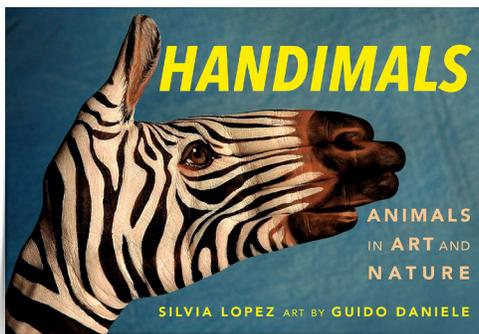
**Written by Silvia Lopez; Art by Guido Daniele**

Artist Guido Daniele paints intricate and lifelike replicas of animals, using hands as his canvas. Silvia Lopez adds thoughtful and informative text to create this unusual and engaging book.

### Storytelling Tips

Read the book in chunks. The book's complex art and detailed narrative is meant to be savored. Try reading a few pages, rather than the whole book, in one sitting. Or look at all the photos first and then come back another time to read the details.

Ask your child to try to mimic each hand position used by the artist.



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Make shadow puppets with your hands against a backlit wall in your home. Tell stories about the animals and challenge your child to create a story.
- ▶ Choose one of the animals from the book to learn more. Do online research or read additional books.
- ▶ Read the last pages about how Guido approaches his art. Offer paints, pencils, and paper and encourage your child to try painting a favorite animal.
- ▶ Become an animal advocate. Guido says he chooses hands as his medium because “we must give animals a hand if they are to survive.” Visit [worldwildlife.org](http://worldwildlife.org), [defenders.org](http://defenders.org), or [iucn.org](http://iucn.org) to learn how you can help.

## SCHOOL-AGE (GR. 4-6)

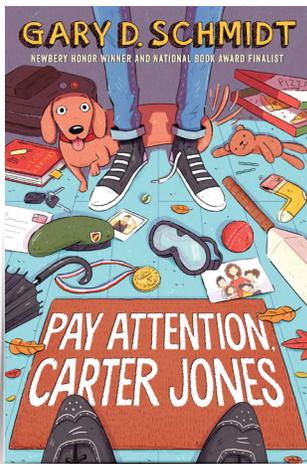
### *Pay Attention, Carter Jones*

Written by Gary D. Schmidt

“Make good decisions and remember who you are,” says the Butler, a modern day Mary Poppins intent on teaching Carter Jones about life, cricket, and pizza. This coming of age story deftly explores a young boy’s loss with humor and wisdom.

### Storytelling Tips

Consider reading the story together, a chapter or two at a time over a meal or at bedtime. Ask thoughtful questions, such as, “Does Carter remind you of anyone? What would you do if you were him? Who do you think is the most heroic character in the story?”



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Make homemade pizza together. Let your child choose their favorite toppings.
- ▶ Learn more about the game of cricket. Try playing a game of cricket with friends.