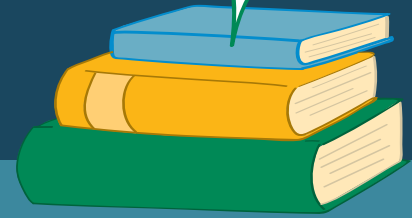


# BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

JULY  
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

### Seeds Move!

Written and Illustrated by Robin Page



*Seeds Move* tells the story of seeds and how they move from one place to another – with the help of animals, humans, gravity, wind, and water. Through bright illustrations and an engaging text, we learn that seeds are “smarter” than we ever thought possible.

### Storytelling Tips

Read the story slowly, taking time to look carefully at the illustrations. Emphasize new words, such as *catapult*, *burrow*, *plunge*, or *plop*. Discuss the plants and animals in the book. Are you familiar with all of them? Are some of them new?

### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Go for a nature walk and pay special attention to the plants in your area. What seeds do you see? How might the seeds move? Try choosing a plant or tree to observe over several weeks or even months. Can you discover their methods?
- ▶ Look in your own yard. Is everything there something that you intentionally planted or are some plants “volunteers?”
- ▶ Collect seeds from several nontoxic plants. Sort and compare them. How are they the same? How are they different?
- ▶ Offer basic materials, such as craft sticks, cloth, and string. Challenge your child to make a parachute, a helicopter, or a catapult.

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

### *A Little Book About Colors*

Written by Leo Lionni; Illustrated by Leo Lionni and Jan Gerardi

Part of a new series based on the iconic work of author-illustrator Leo Lionni, *A Little Book About Colors* offers a fresh, engaging look at colors for the youngest reader.

### Storytelling Tips

Find a few props from the story, such as an orange, a dandelion, or grapes. Share these with your child as you read.



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Go on a color hunt. Show your child an example of a specific color. Walk through your home and find other objects of the same hue.
- ▶ Show your child an orange and a lemon. Slice the two fruits, showing your child the similarities (peels, membranes, and segments) and the differences (color, scent, taste).
- ▶ Dip dandelions in paint or ink and press on paper to make a dandelion print.

## PRESCHOOL

### The New Neighbors

**Written and Illustrated by Sarah McIntyre**

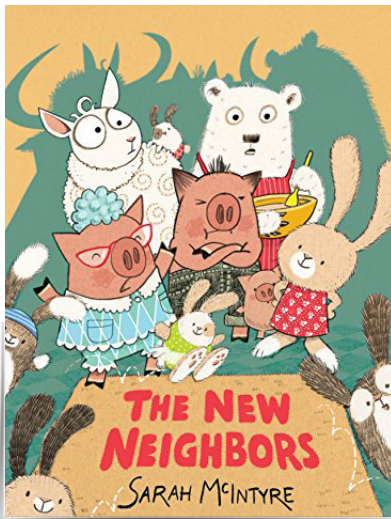
Uh oh. Rats have moved in. They're big, dirty, smelly, thieving, and dangerous. At least that's what the other animals believe. But what's really true? Find out in this hilarious, rollicking tale.

#### Storytelling Tips

Give this story a "close" read, looking at the pictures carefully. Point out the end papers, which feature the rabbits Jake, Oscar, Rosie, Piper, and Clovis.

Use open-ended comments and questions to discuss the story with your child: "I wonder why everyone was so afraid of the rats." "What would you do if you were them?" "Have you ever been nervous about meeting someone, but loved them once you got to know them?" "Have you ever been the new person everyone was looking at and wondering about? What did you do to help people understand you?"

Point out the text. Most of it runs from left to right, but some of it is slanted and some of it is in quotation bubbles. Also, notice changes in font and text size.



#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Make a list describing your neighbors. What do you know about them? What would you like to know? Think of one thing to do to get to know your neighbors better. Deliver notes, flowers, or cookies. Offer to walk your neighbor's dog or invite your neighbor over for dessert or game night (depending on current conditions, of course).
- ▶ Point out the adjectives in the story, big, dirty, smelly, thieving, and dangerous. Adjectives help us describe people, places, or things. Ask your child to help you come up with some positive adjectives to describe the rats and write them down.
- ▶ Show your child a ball of yarn or string. Discuss how one little string is very small, but when you wind the string up, it becomes a much larger ball. The story the animals told about the rats became bigger and bigger, but none of it was true or based on fact. Discuss the idea that if we're not sure about the truth, it's best to ask the people who are most likely to know.
- ▶ Make a "story stretcher." Offer a simple beginning, such as, "Once there was a tiny boy who lived in an old watering can..." Take turns adding a few lines to the story to see where it goes. How many turns can you take before you run out of ideas?

## SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

### *Make a Wish Henry Bear*

**Written and illustrated by Liam Francis Walsh**

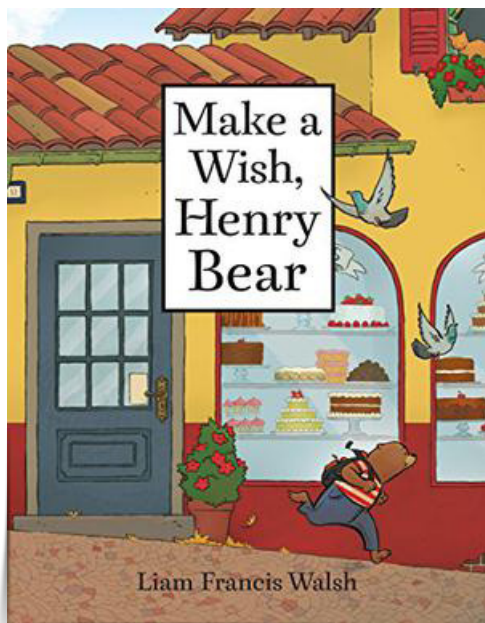
On Henry's birthday, he wishes that his parents were more fun. Be careful what you wish for, Henry! Now his parents feed him nothing but chocolate cake, keep him up all night, and get him into trouble with his teacher!

### Storytelling Tips

Look at the cover art. Does it give you any clues about the story? What might the story be about?

On page three, the artist shows Henry from an aerial perspective. Why did he do that? Notice how the artist made objects in the foreground larger than objects in the background. Point out the artist's limited color palette throughout the book (mostly brown, red, blue, yellow, and green).

Discuss the story. Ask your child what stood out or what she remembers most. Ask thoughtful questions, e.g., "What might have happened if Marjani hadn't brought the cupcake? What have you wished for on your birthday before?"



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ The author lives in Ticino, Switzerland, a setting that provided inspiration for the illustrations. Locate Switzerland and do an internet search to learn more.
- ▶ Write a letter to the author at [liamfranciswalsh.com](http://liamfranciswalsh.com).
- ▶ Ask your child what rules he'd make or change if he was in charge of the world. What would he eat everyday if he could? When would he go to bed?
- ▶ Bake a cake, go for a bike ride, or watch a movie together.

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

### *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*

**Written by Dan Gemeinhart**

Twelve-year-old Coyote Sunrise has been traveling across the country in an old school bus with her father for five long years—ever since her mom and two sisters were killed in a car crash. Now it's time to go home; along the way, Coyote meets some unlikely friends.

#### Storytelling Tips

Have a family read-aloud. As kids get older, read-aloud tends to end, but many elementary-age children still love the tradition. Read at bedtime, over a meal, or listen to an audiobook in the car. Institute an afternoon “tea and books” time.

Have thoughtful discussions. This book is full of rich, deep concepts and characters. Ask questions that require analytical thinking, such as, “Did Coyote remind you of anyone?” “Who do you think was the bravest, most interesting, or confusing character in the story?” “What qualities do you look for in a friend?”



#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Learn more about award-winning author Dan Gemeinhart, a former elementary school teacher and librarian, at [dangemeinhart.com](http://dangemeinhart.com).
- ▶ Make a memory box or time capsule that represents your family right now. Include mementos, photos, current newspapers, etc. Tuck it away to open at a later date.
- ▶ Get out a map and think about where you'd go if you lived on a school bus. What would you take with you? Encourage your child to research a destination or write a story about it.