

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

July
2021

20th Anniversary

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

NEW!

Growing Readers
Book Club videos!
See page 3
for further details.

SCHOOL-AGE K-2

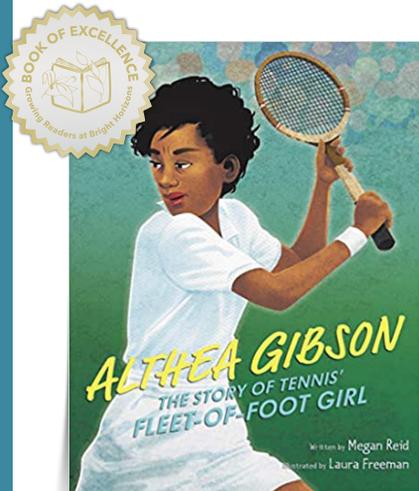
Althea Gibson

Written by Megan Reid; Illustrated by Laura Freeman

Althea Gibson was the “quickest, tallest, most fearless girl Harlem had ever seen.” She began winning local tennis competitions when she was only twelve, but that wasn’t enough for her. She overcame racial segregation and prejudice to become the first black person to win at Wimbledon.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Spark conversation.** Make a few observations or ask “I wonder” questions. For example, “Althea worked so hard. What’s something that you’ve worked to get better at?” or “I wonder how she felt at Wimbledon as the only black person? Can you remember a time when you felt like an only?” Point out and research unfamiliar words or phrases such as “fleet of foot.”
- ▶ **Look at the illustrations.** Point out the end papers. Did you notice the recurring theme of illustrations placed within circles (like tennis balls)?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make your own play street.** Section off a portion of your yard for unlimited play. Talk with neighbors about making a space for ball play, even if it’s just for a day.
- ▶ **Take a geography lesson.** Pull out a map and find the places Althea visited, e.g., France, Sweden, Germany, Burma, and of course, England.
- ▶ **Play a match.** Play tennis, table tennis, or pickleball. Or play simple homemade games. Try to keep a balloon in the air or toss crumbled balls of paper back and forth.

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

The Farm

Written and Illustrated by Sara Brezzi

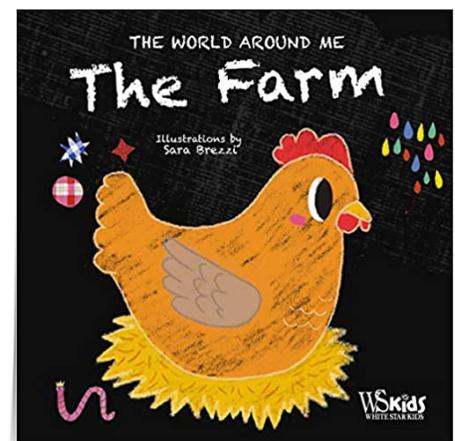
Whimsical chalkboard illustrations and beloved farm animals give this first board book appeal and charm.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read it more than once.** Young children love to hear stories over and over again. Reading a book more than once is a great way to build vocabulary and a love of story.
- ▶ **Point out the secondary illustrations.** Along with the farm animals, point out and name the other illustrations such as the worm, apple, or sun.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Meet real animals.** Visit a farm or petting zoo if possible to meet farm animals in real life.
- ▶ **Experiment with sidewalk chalk.** Offer older toddlers sidewalk chalk outdoors or on an easel inside.
- ▶ **Make a pretend scenario.** Use animal figurines or stuffed animals to make a farm at home. Talk with your child about caring for the animals, e.g., “Let’s feed the cow some hay. We need to collect the chicken’s eggs.” This practice builds children’s language and play skills.



PRESCHOOL

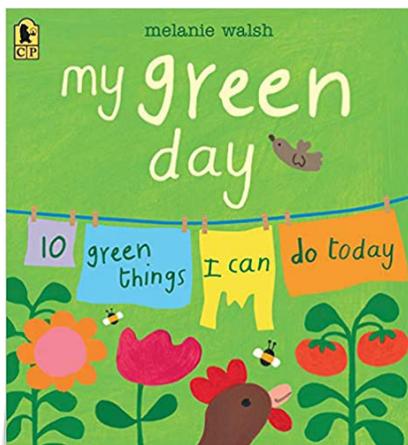
My Green Day: 10 Green Things I Can Do Today

Written and Illustrated by Melanie Walsh

My Green Day depicts one child's day, offering simple ideas for more sustainable living. Colorful illustrations and a gentle text keep the story engaging, relatable, and upbeat.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Provoke discussion.** As you read, make occasional comments or ask questions to spark further thinking, e.g., "Look, this family likes to compost just like we do." Or "I wonder what else we could do to save energy. What do you think?"
- ▶ **Talk about solutions.** Using resources wisely often means coming up with more than one solution. For example, what if you have leftover food? You can compost it, feed it to backyard chickens, refrigerate it for the next day, or even freeze it.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Set goals.** Think about the "my green day" things you're already doing. What else would you like to do? Try to add one or two new practices.
- ▶ **Visit a park.** Getting outdoors is a great way to improve health and build connections.
- ▶ **Make muffins.** Bake your favorite muffin recipe or try something new.

NEW!

Don't miss this month's riveting video episode of the Growing Readers Book Club! Become Mr. Nate's co-researchers as you and your child are introduced to high-quality children's books along with ideas to explore, create, and investigate further!

Growing Readers
Book Club



[Watch the video here!](#)

Join Mr. Nate as he showcases the colorful book *My Green Day* by Melanie Walsh. Discover child-friendly ways to care for our environment and become inspired to make a special gift using recycled materials!

SCHOOL-AGE (3RD-6TH)

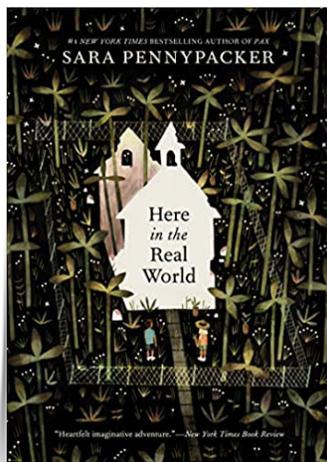
Here in the Real World

Written by Sara Pennypacker

Ware and Jolene skip summer camp to build a fortress and garden in the abandoned lot next door. But when the lot is threatened, they have to do something to save it. A poignant story about friendship, courage, and acceptance.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read aloud.** Older children still love hearing stories. This one, with its short chapters and humor, is a great choice. Read a few pages over dinner or at bedtime, or take it along on a road trip.
- ▶ **Talk it through.** Make comments and ask open-ended questions to prompt rich discussion, e.g., “Who was your favorite character? Did they remind you of someone you know in real life? What would you do if you were in their situation?”



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Build a fort.** Bring home an appliance box, throw sheets over a table, or make a more permanent structure. Encourage your child to design and decorate the fort.
- ▶ **Plant a garden.** Growing a garden can be as simple as a few herbs, tomatoes, or salad greens in pots or a full-on garden project. You may even consider donating a portion of your crop to your local food pantry.