

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

June
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

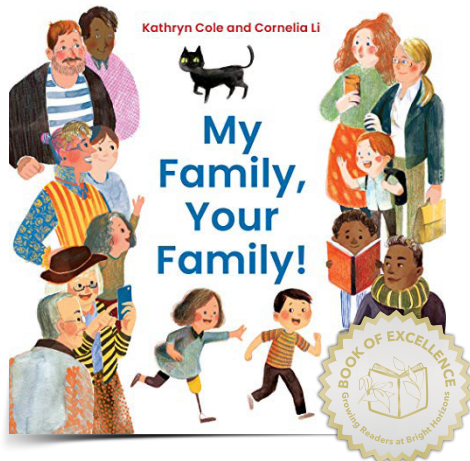
NEW!

Growing Readers
Book Club videos!
See below
for further details.

INFANT & TODDLER (Also a good conversation starter for older children!)

My Family, Your Family

Written Kathryn Cole; Illustrated by Cornelia Li



“A celebration of all kinds of families, especially yours! There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to families. The ones in this book have what matters most – love!”

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read slowly.** Point out details such as stuffed animals, favorite foods, or family pets.
- ▶ **Spark conversation.** For older children, this book is a wonderful conversation starter that celebrates the diversity of families. No matter what type of family you are a part of, there is something uniquely special about each one!

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make connections.** Look at photos of your family. Point out each family member and say their name. Perhaps add a distinguishing comment, e.g., “This is Aunt Lucy. She has an orange cat.”
- ▶ **Send some love.** Draw pictures (depending on your child's age) to send to family far away or initiate a video call.

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

Join Mr. Nate as he discusses the beautiful book “My Family, Your Family” and become inspired to celebrate your own unique family through simple shared activities such as portraits, reading chains, and journals!

NEW!

[Watch the video here!](#)

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.



PRESCHOOL

You Matter

Written and Illustrated by Christian Robinson

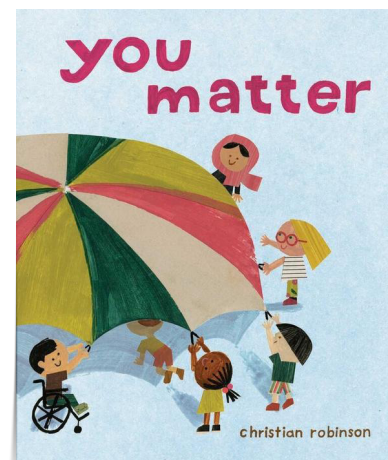
“Old and young, the first to go and the last...you matter.” Playful text and childlike illustrations contradict the deep theme of this book, which is not only that individual children matter, but that every living thing on earth matters.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Point out the pace.** This story begins with microscopic animals and the evolution of life on earth before shifting to modern people. Point out this change in focus.
- ▶ **Discuss interests.** The book explores varied elements such as ants, dinosaurs, ocean life, outer space, astronauts, and vehicles. Which elements interest your child? Perhaps the book can launch play around that interest.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Narrow your lens.** Go for a “small” walk. Watch carefully for small things—small insects, parts of leaves and plants, or a bit of a tree trunk. Deeply observe a small part of something. What do you see?
- ▶ **Imitate the artist.** Robinson used painted paper collage cut in simple geometric shapes to make his illustration. Give your child some paint, paper, scissors, and glue to make their own collage.



SCHOOL-AGE (K-3)

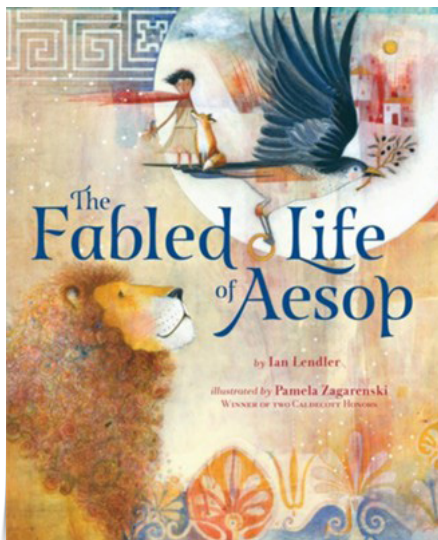
The Fabled Life of Aesop

Written by Ian Lendler; Illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski

A fresh take on Aesop's Fables, gloriously illustrated, this book is the perfect introduction to Aesop and to the power of storytelling as memory and meaning.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Start with Aesop.** The book begins with the life of Aesop, a slave. Read this section one day and save the individual fables to read over several days, which will increase their power.
- ▶ **Make connections.** Discuss the fables to connect them to your child's life. Ask, "Have you ever helped someone who was bigger or stronger than you?" Or make a comment, "This fable reminds me of Grandma because she's always kind. She's warm like the sun."



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Retell a fable.** Ask your child to narrate, or tell back, their favorite fable. Write down their words or let them write the story down. Paint or draw some illustrations.
- ▶ **Read other fables.** Visit the library or look online for additional fables from around the world. After you've read a few, try writing your own.

SCHOOL-AGE (4TH-6TH)

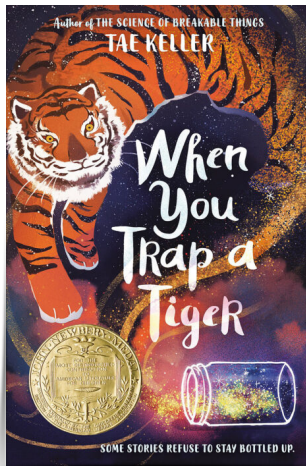
When You Trap a Tiger

Written by Tae Keller

A girl, a grandmother, and a tiger. The 2021 Newbery Medal winner, “When You Trap a Tiger” is a magical exploration of family, loss, and Korean folklore.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read it together.** This book is full of magical realism, lovable characters, and complex family dynamics. Create a book club and read this book together as a family or with friends.
- ▶ **Do some self-reflection.** Ask your child open-ended questions about the story. “What would you have done if you were in Lily’s place?” or “What character did you most relate to?”



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore family stories.** Learn more about your familial and cultural heritage. Read folk tales or ask grandparents to share stories from their childhood.
- ▶ **Write it down.** Lily experienced several challenges – moving, making new friends, growing away from her sister and mother, and the sadness of her grandmother’s illness. What challenges has your child overcome? What strategies did they use or lessons did they learn? Encourage your child to write their ideas down.