

# BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

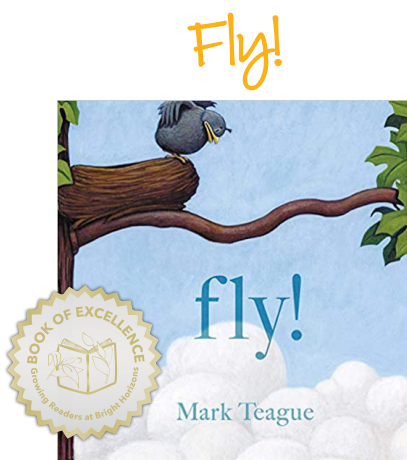
March  
2021

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

### PRESCHOOL



#### Written and Illustrated by Mark Teague

“It’s time to fly out into the big, wide world, but *somebody* does not want to leave the nest.” In this charming, wordless book, a mother bird coaxes her baby bird to fly. Children will giggle over the little bird’s ideas and relate to both the need for, and fear of independence.

#### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Follow the cues.** As a wordless book, this story relies heavily on facial expressions, gestures, and thought bubbles. Take time to look carefully at each image.
- ▶ **Talk about feelings.** Using the facial expressions as a guide, talk about how each character is feeling such as, “I think the mama bird is frustrated. What tells me that?”
- ▶ **Narrate the story.** Since the book doesn’t have words, you get to add your own. For example, “Once there was a baby bird who loved eating worms in his warm, cozy nest. One day, he fell out of the nest...” Later let your child tell the story using the pictures as a guide.

#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore thought bubbles and comic strips.** Read other wordless books or comics. Help your child make their own wordless story.
- ▶ **Learn about birds.** How do real baby birds learn to fly? Do they ever resist leaving their nest? Read other books about birds, talk with a naturalist, or visit websites together such as the [Cornell Bird Lab](#).
- ▶ **Watch birds in your area.** Install a bird feeder at your home or go on a bird walk. See how many birds you can identify in your neighborhood. Learn to recognize their individual calls.

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

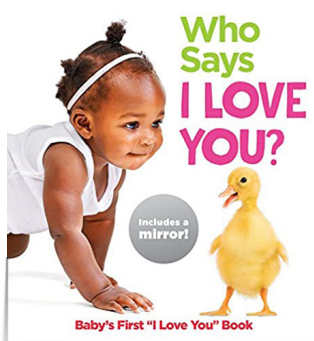
### Who Says I Love You?

Written by Highlights for Children

Adorable images of baby animals, a fun, repetitive text, and a sweet ending will have babies and toddlers asking for this book again and again.

#### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Make predictions.** Read the pages that begin with “Who says I love you...” and pause. Ask your child, “Who do you think it is? Who’s on the next page?” Point to the image at the bottom of the page if your child needs a cue.
- ▶ **Use animation.** Read the story with suspense and playful energy. Mix it up with different voices and animal sounds.



#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make your own story.** Retell the story using the pets and people in your child’s life, e.g., “Who says I love you with a kiss, kiss, kiss? Nana says I love you with a kiss, kiss, kiss.”
- ▶ **Gather story props.** Offer stuffed animals or animal figurines to retell the story. Substitute other animals depending on what you have such as elephants, goldfish, frogs, etc.
- ▶ **Observe real animals.** Visit or drive by a farm, zoo, or nature preserve to learn more about real animals.

## SCHOOL-AGE (K-2<sup>ND</sup>)

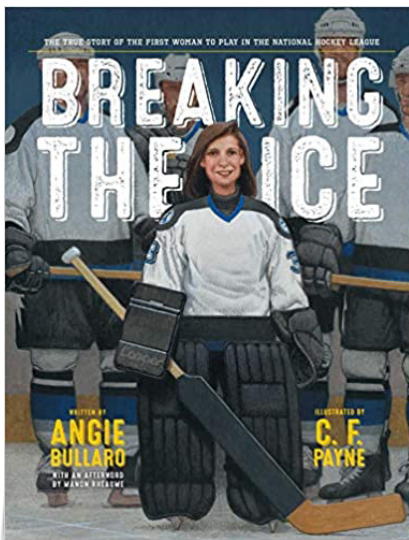
### Breaking the Ice

Written by Angie Bullaro; Illustrated by C. F. Payne

*Breaking the Ice* tells the inspiring true story of Manon Rhéaume, who persevered through obstacles and discrimination to become the first woman to play in the National Hockey League. Lively storytelling and vivid illustrations make this an engaging read.

### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read and reflect.** Read the book together. Take time to notice the life-like illustrations that add to the immediacy of the story: We feel like we're right there cheering for Manon. Ask your child what they noticed or remembered about the story. What questions do they have?
- ▶ **Offer your perspective.** After your child has shared their thoughts, share some of your own. Comment on the character traits that helped Manon succeed, e.g., "I really loved how she ignored the negative comments and focused on playing her best. It must have been lonely sometimes, but she worked so hard."



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore the concept of fairness.** Talk together about times when something might not be fair. Ask your child if they've noticed examples of unfairness. Together develop a list of rights all children should have.
- ▶ **Learn more about hockey.** Read books or watch hockey games. Play a mock hockey game with sticks or brooms. What sports does your child enjoy? What sports would they like to try?
- ▶ **Discover your family history.** Talk with family members to learn about heroes in your own family. When did your family come to the United States? What obstacles have family members overcome? What "firsts" can you find in your family tree? Write down some of the stories you hear to make a family story book. Add photos if possible.

## SCHOOL-AGE (3<sup>RD</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup>)

### The List of Things That Will Not Change

Written by Rebecca Stead

After her parents' divorce, Bea keeps a notebook with a list of all the things that will not change, first being her parents' love for her. But, Bea's life does change when her dad marries his boyfriend and she gains a sister. Poignant, authentic, and tender.

#### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read together.** *The List of Things That Will Not Change* has all the elements of a good middle-grade read-aloud: short chapters, authentic characters, and memorable moments. The depictions of school and family will likely resonate and spark conversation.
- ▶ **Talk about the book's themes.** This book gently explores questions about change, resilience, and love, and offers an expansive view of what it means to be a family. What does your child think about these themes? Did the book encourage new ideas?



#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make your own list.** What are the things in your family that won't change? What preferences, habits, or traditions make your family unique?
- ▶ **Walk down memory lane.** The book is full of authentic family moments such as vacations at the cabin, dancing in the kitchen, and making food together. What memories do you and your child recall as you read the book?
- ▶ **Research astronomy.** What stars do people see in different parts of the world? Do people in the southern hemisphere view the same stars as those in the northern hemisphere? Challenge your child to find out the answers.