

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

March
2022



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.

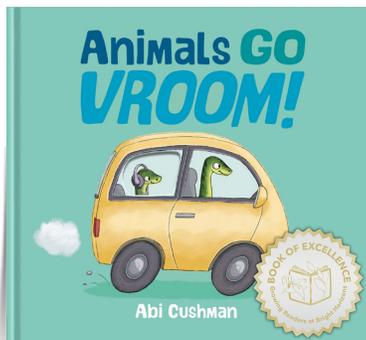
Book of Excellence

NEW!

Growing Readers
Book Club videos!
See page 2
for further details.

PRESCHOOL

Animals Go Vroom!



Written and Illustrated by Abi Cushman

It's a normal day in Bumperville until a truck spills a box of tacks and hilarious disaster ensues. Each page delivers a question and a surprise.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Build suspense.** In every spread, you might think you know what to expect – only to be surprised. Turn the pages slowly and ask your child, “What do you think will happen next?”
- ▶ **Examine the illustrations.** In addition to the main storyline, each page is full of interesting repetitive details. Find the otter, the crow family, and other characters on each page.
- ▶ **Point out the sound words.** This story features onomatopoeia (a word that mimics the sound of an object or action). For example, *roar* imitates the sound of the truck, while *hiss* imitates the sound of the flat tire. Try to find other words that mimic sounds within the story.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Go on a picnic.** Take a cue from the crows: Pack a lunch and head to the park. Or, if the weather's inclement, spread a blanket on the living room floor for your picnic.
- ▶ **Act out the story.** Help your child gather stuffed animals and toy vehicles to reenact the story. Pretend play like this helps children understand story characters and sequence. Plus, it's really fun!
- ▶ **Sing.** Join Teacher Nate in singing a playful, [musical sequence song](#) featuring animal sounds inspired by the book.

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

Rest/Descansar

Written by Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis

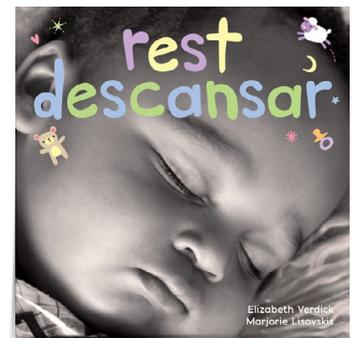
A sweet, simple homage to babies sleeping with Spanish and English text and lovely, black and white photos.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read and repeat.** Babies love to hear stories more than once, and these repetitive readings help build language and story sense.
- ▶ **Make connections.** Point out similarities between the babies in the photos and your child. “Daddy likes to snuggle you just like the Daddy in this picture.”

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Offer context.** Talk with your baby about how all people and animals need to sleep. If you have pets, comment on their sleep.
- ▶ **Play “Time for Bed.”** Encourage your child to put their stuffed animals to bed. Wrap them in a blanket, kiss them, or read a story together. Pretend play like this is great for boosting language, imagination, and critical thinking.



NEW!

Don't miss this month's riveting video episode of the Growing Readers Book Club! Become Teacher 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

This month's video features the book "Animals Go Vroom" by Abi Cushman. Sing along with Teacher Nate as he creates a playful, musical sequence song featuring animal sounds inspired by the book!



[Watch the video here!](#)

Notable Books *Continued...*

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

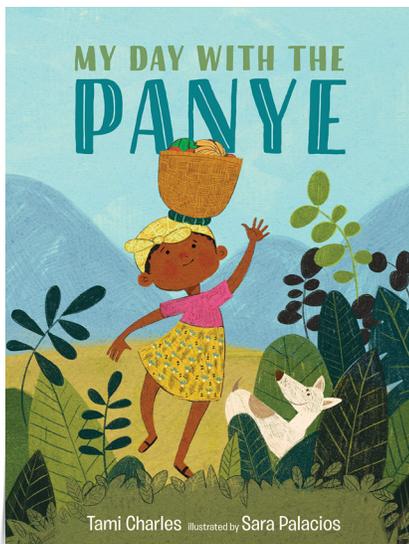
My Day With the Panyè

Written by Tami Charles; Illustrated by Sara Palacios

Fallon wants to carry the panyè to the market and she struggles. Her mother tells her to be patient, one step at a time, and Fallon succeeds in the end. Vibrant illustrations and lyrical prose depict a Haitian family's love and strength.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Take in the illustrations.** Each page is full of rich color and detail. Point out the plants, animals, and brightly colored fabrics. Look at the names of the shops. Even if you don't speak French or Haitian Creole, the names are easy to decipher.
- ▶ **Introduce simile.** The story is full of similes – “tall like an arrow” or “my heart sinks like a shooting star.” Explain that writers sometimes use simile to make their narrative descriptions more vivid. Try to think of some similes to describe your family, pets, feelings, etc.
- ▶ **Make a connection.** The story ends with Fallon's words, “We are graceful when the load is heavy. We are strong, even when the earth is not. We are family, fed by love.” Reflect on how your own family has learned grace, strength, and love.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore birds' nests.** Manman says, “Little by little, the bird builds its nest.” Watch birds in your neighborhood or search the internet to learn more about how birds build their nests. Offer clay, playdough, twigs, ribbon, and other material so your child can make a nest.
- ▶ **Compare and contrast.** Think about how Fallon's family gets their food. In what ways is their life similar to yours? How is it different? Visit a farmers' market or farm stand.
- ▶ **Keep your balance.** Children around the world learn to carry objects on their heads from an early age. Encourage your child to practice walking while balancing a bowl or book.

SCHOOL-AGE (3RD-6TH)

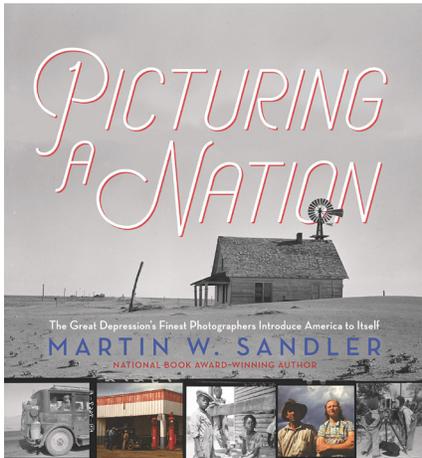
Picturing A Nation

Written by **Martin W. Sandler**

In 1935, the Farm Security Administration sent 10 photographers on a cross-country photo shoot assignment. The administration's goal was to raise awareness and inspire empathy for the very real plight of many Americans during the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. This book is a powerful collection of those images.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Offer some context.** Offer a brief explanation of this time period to your child before you read the book.
- ▶ **Take your child's lead.** This isn't a book to read in one sitting. Pore over the images together over several days, and take reading breaks to keep your child's interest. Reflect on what you see, ask questions, and discuss.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Discuss attributes.** As you look at the images, ask your child what words come to mind to describe the people, such as poverty, discouragement, determination, or courage.
- ▶ **Research further.** Read other books or do an internet search to learn more about specific topics that interest your child such as immigration, the Dust Bowl, farming, or child workers.
- ▶ **Be an activist.** This project launched several of the photographers to unexpected national prominence, but fame wasn't their goal. They used their photography as a form of activism. Talk about how to use individual talents and circumstances to help others. Visit [Doing Good Together](#) for service ideas.