

# BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

September  
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 2  
for further details.

PRESCHOOL

### Mayhem at the Museum



**Illustrated by Luciano Lozano**

An ordinary field trip to the art museum becomes a celebration when the art comes to life. The children gather apples from Cézanne and sunflowers from Monet. Van Gogh tosses his straw hat to them, and Degas's tiny ballerina leaps to life. This wordless picture book is a clever introduction to the world of art.

### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Point out the details.** The story begins with a group of children and adults standing in line to enter the museum. Ask your child, "How are they feeling? What are the rules?" Notice the surprises on each page. How do the patron's expressions change as they go through the museum? How are they feeling?
- ▶ **Learn more.** The copyright page lists all the paintings featured in the book. Check it out and find the paintings online. How are they the same as Lozano's illustrations? How are they different?

### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Visit an art museum.** Visit an art museum in person if possible, or try a digital tour online. Keep your virtual or in-person tours brief and engaging, and stop before your child loses interest. Many museums offer special days or activities just for young children.
- ▶ **Look and see.** Find a painting online. Encourage your child to look closely at it, remembering as many details as possible. Then put the painting away and ask your child to share everything they remember. You can add some details too before pulling the painting out to examine it again.
- ▶ **Do an artist study.** Choose one artist to learn more about. Try mimicking their style. For example, while learning about pointillism and Seurat, offer your child cotton swabs to make a painting with many small dots of paint.

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

### Families Can

Written by Dan Saks; Illustrated by Brooke Smart

Positive and affirming, this book highlights families in all their variety.

#### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Offer context.** As you read, connect the story to your family's life. For example, "This family likes to cook just like we do." Or, "Our family lives in two homes too!"
- ▶ **Notice the rhyming words.** The rhyming text throughout this book gives young children the opportunity to hear inflection and rhythm.

#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Copy the action.** After reading the story, do some of the activities. Read books under the covers, go to the park, or play in the sand.
- ▶ **Examine photos.** Show your child photos of your family and friends. Build language by identifying each person. "Here's Grammy and Poppy. Remember when we went to Steve's house? He has a big dog."



**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

This month's video features the book "Mayhem at the Museum" by Luciano Lozano. See how this engaging book inspires Mr. David to create fancy frames out of simple materials. Join the fun to display your own museum-worthy masterpiece!



**[Watch the video here!](#)**

## SCHOOL-AGE K-2

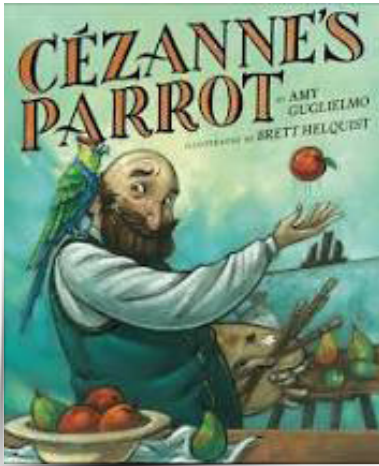
### *Cézanne's Parrot*

Written by Amy Guglielmo; Illustrated by Brett Helquist

Critics rejected Paul Cézanne's art for years, but today he's known as the father of modern art. Here is the story of how he kept trying and the parrot that encouraged him along the way.

### Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Notice the illustrations.** Helquist has intentionally used bright colors and broad strokes to create art that is similar to Cézanne's.
- ▶ **Ask questions.** Ask a few open-ended questions as you read to spark deeper thinking and discussion. For example, "Cézanne worked for a long time before anyone appreciated his paintings. I wonder what helped him keep trying," or "If you had a parrot what words would you teach it? Why?"



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Learn more about Cézanne.** Look at some of Cézanne's paintings online. Can you see the thick lines and bright colors?
- ▶ **Paint what you see.** Monet advised a young Cézanne to go out in nature and paint what he saw. Arrange some fruit or flowers for a still life or go out in nature with your child to paint plein air.
- ▶ **Build skills.** Cézanne had several friends who gave him good advice and offered encouragement. Invite a friend to teach you and your child a new skill. Maybe you'll bake bread, make a birdhouse, or paint with watercolors. Learning how to ask for help and accept feedback is an important life skill.