

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

April
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

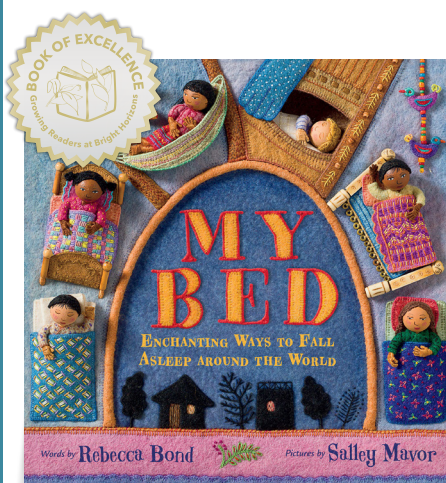
SCHOOL-AGE (K-2ND)

Written by Rebecca Bond; Illustrated by Salley Mavor

A lyrical narrative and rich, hand-sewn illustrations depict children all over the world falling asleep. From a hammock in Brazil to a houseboat in the Netherlands to a bed built over a clay stove in Russia, children find comfort and peace in the places they sleep. A joyous celebration of culture and home.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Feast your eyes.** Master craft artist Salley Mavor spent two years sewing and crafting miniature scenes which were photographed for the book. Every page is packed with charming and intricate details. Slow down and enjoy each scene. Point out the animals on each page, which Salley designed as text anchors, offering clues about what would follow.
- ▶ **Dream a dream.** Ask your child to imagine their ideal bed. Where would it be? In the top of a tree? On the ocean? What would their bed look like?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Dive into culture.** Maria Montessori said that culture is how humans meet and express their most basic needs, including food, education, sleep, work, and recreation. Learn about other aspects of children's lives around the globe. How are they different? How are they the same?
- ▶ **Craft something.** Mavor's illustrations inspire a love for craftsmanship and homemade beauty. Find some fabric and embellishments and craft a bed for a favorite doll or stuffed animal.

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

Little Rabbits' First Words

Written and Illustrated by Alan Baker

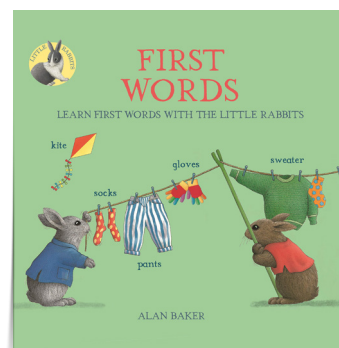
Charming illustrations and a simple text introduces your young reader to new words.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Point out categories.** Objects are grouped in categories, such as clothes and things for making sounds. Make a connection between the book and your life, e.g., “We’re using a broom just like the little rabbits did.”

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Sort things by categories.** Help your child sort real-life objects. When you unload groceries, for example, let them put all the fruit in the basket or all the cereal and crackers on the shelf. Put the boots near the backdoor or put all your child’s books in a basket. Label each object for your child.
- ▶ **Pretend.** Perhaps your child would like to pretend to be a bunny. Encourage them to hop around or make a cozy bunny bed.



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

Out, down, past, along... join Mr. Nate as he examines one family's morning routine in the book *Out the Door* by Christy Hale. Create your family's very own picture collage to document your morning routine.



Watch the video here!

PRESCHOOL

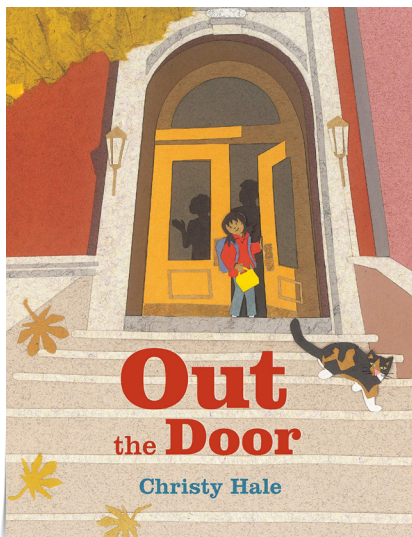
Out the Door

Written and Illustrated by Christy Hale

A young child goes to school with her father — past neighbors, across the street, aboard the train, into the classroom, and back again. Vivid illustrations build a sense of urban community and tradition.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Examine the art.** Christy Hale used fabric and paper collage for the illustrations. Notice the varied patterns and textures.
- ▶ **Talk about similarities.** How does the young girl's journey to school compare to your own? Do you walk, go in a car, ride on a train, or something else? Who do you see as you go? Who is waiting for your child's return (perhaps it's a cat?).



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make a neighborhood map.** Look at the end papers at the front and back of the book. On a large piece of paper, help your child make a map of your neighborhood. Include things that are meaningful to your child, such as the bird's nest in the tree on the corner.
- ▶ **Learn about prepositions.** Offer a plastic or stuffed animal and a box. Say, "Can you put the animal inside, under, over, or below the box?"

SCHOOL-AGE (3RD-6TH)

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

Written by Janae Marks

12-year-old Zoe Washington has a lot to think about: She's auditioning for Food Network's *Kids Bake Challenge* while trying to prove that her father, who was convicted of a terrible crime, is innocent. Janae Marks tackles a heavy topic with humor and hope.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read it together.** This is a quick read, with short chapters, engaging characters, and snappy dialogue – a great read-aloud for older children.
- ▶ **Answer questions.** Talk about the justice system in our country and how juries and trials work. If your child is interested, look at cases in which an innocent person is found guilty and later freed. Point out how Zoe and her parents navigated making rules and decisions. How does that work in your family? How did Zoe fix her friendship with Trevor? Has your child ever had a fight with a friend?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Dream big.** Zoe dreamed of being a professional baker. What does your child dream of doing? Write a story or draw a picture about it.
- ▶ **Try some baking.** Pull out the mixing bowls and whip up something together, cold cereal optional.