

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

April
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.

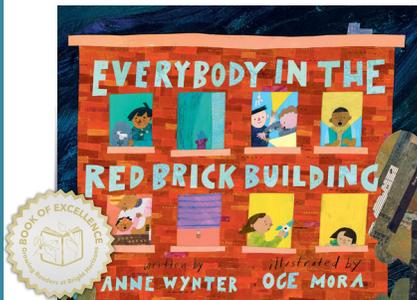
Book of Excellence

NEW!

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

PRESCHOOL

Everybody in the Red Brick Building



Written by Anne Wynter; Illustrated by Oge Mora

Everybody in the red brick building was asleep...until one baby woke with a howl – which sets off a chain reaction of hilarious midnight adventures. Predictable, repetitive text and bright collage illustrations bring “Everybody in the Red Brick Building” by Anne Wynter and Oge Mora to life.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Make predictions.** This book has a charming, repetitive storyline and text that children will love. Read a few pages so your child knows what to expect. Then pause during the parts that repeat and allow your child to fill in the words.
- ▶ **Make connections.** As you read the story, discuss the characters in the story. How are their lives similar or different from your own?
- ▶ **Make some noise.** Use household items like pan lids, cups, or a whistle to simulate the noises in the story. Clap your hands and stomp your feet too.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Rewrite the story.** What noises, people, pets, and actions would you put in the story if it was about your home or neighborhood? Maybe you'd replace the screeching parrot with a barking dog, or replace the sound of a street sweeper with a rooster.
- ▶ **Learn about collage.** Oge Mora is an award-winning illustrator who loves creating stories that “celebrate people coming together.” Visit her [website](#) to study her art, which is reminiscent of Eric Carle's work. Then pull out paper, glue, and scissors to make your own collage.

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

Wildflowers Grow

Written by Amber Hendricks, Illustrated by Gavin Scott

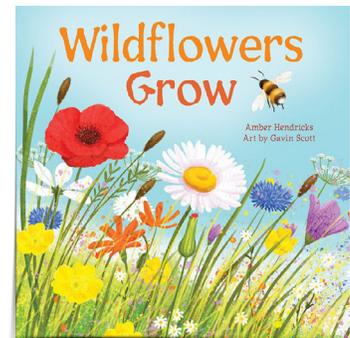
Poetic, rhyming text and bright illustrations introduce young children to the wonders of flowers.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Read for understanding.** During a first read, emphasize the rhyming words. Point to the illustrations and make connections. “Look at the raindrops. It rained here yesterday too.”
- ▶ **Add some actions.** On a second read, encourage your child to act out some of the words or phrases. “Sleep like seeds” or “burst into bloom.”

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Go for a nature walk.** Stroll through your yard or neighborhood and point out the flowers you see.
- ▶ **Grow a container garden.** Plant a few seeds with your child. Try fast-growing vegetables like radishes, carrots, or lettuce. These take very little space or care, and can be harvested within just a few weeks.



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

Join Teacher Nate for this month's video featuring illustrator, Oge Mora's inspiration behind the unique pages she created for the book "Everybody in the Red Brick Building". Become inspired to use textures and patterns within your own art!



[Watch the video here!](#)

Notable Books *Continued...*

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

Bartali's Bicycle: The True Story of Gino Bartali, Italy's Secret Hero

Written by Megan Hoyt, Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno

The true story of Gino Bartali, world famous cyclist and winner of the Tour de France. Gino set his career aside to work for the Italian Resistance during World War II, helping 800 Jewish Italians flee Italy.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Give context as you read.** Depending on your child's previous knowledge, stop occasionally to explain unfamiliar concepts such as the Tour de France or the German occupation. Many aspects of World War II are difficult for children to understand. Tailor your explanations to your child's level of cognitive and emotional development.
- ▶ **Explore the illustrations.** Iacopo Bruno is a graphic designer, and his illustrations reflect this. Point out his use of dramatic lines and colors.
- ▶ **Reflect on Bartali's life.** Bartali never talked about his secret work during World War II. He said that some "medals are pinned to your soul, not your jacket." What did Bartali mean by this? What kinds of actions and behaviors are worthy of emulating?



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Learn more about cycling.** Read library books or conduct research via the internet to learn more about professional cycling and racing. Watch some of the Tour de France. Set up a mock bicycle race with friends. Look at colorful cycling shirts on the book's end papers. Perhaps your child would like to design their own shirt.
- ▶ **Connect the dots.** Learn more about World War II and the many people who fled Europe during that time. Compare that situation to current events. Consider small, simple ways to help within your own community or the larger world.