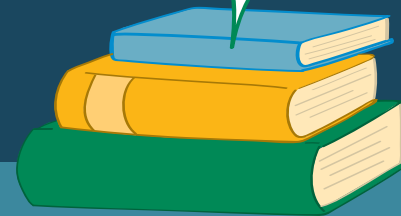


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

December
2021



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!

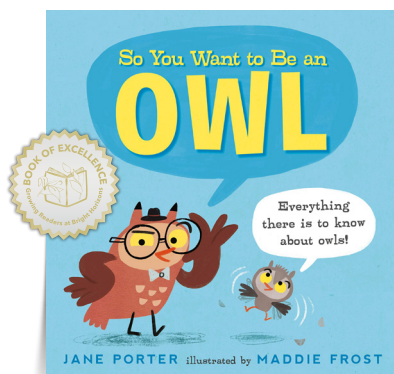
Growing Readers
Book Club videos!
See page 2
for further details.

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

So You Want to Be an Owl

Written by Jane Porter; Illustrated by Maddie Frost

Welcome to owl school where you can learn everything it takes to be an owl. Retro illustrations and a creative storytelling format make this book a pleasure to read.



Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Point out the text.** Most pages contain call-out boxes, charts, or other visual elements. Point these out to your child as you read.
- ▶ **Take time to discuss.** Throughout the text, the teacher asks questions. Take a minute to discuss them with your child. What would your child choose to eat for dinner? What kind of owl home would you want?

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Be an owl.** Maybe your child would like to make a pretend nest in the house, practice making owl calls, or try the owl code—be alert, be watchful, be silent. Shine a flashlight on a dark wall and use your hands to make shadow owls.
- ▶ **Learn about owls near you.** Contact a local aviary or wildlife shelter to learn about the types of owls that live near you.
- ▶ **Explore owl pellets.** If you're feeling adventurous, try dissecting some owl pellets to discover firsthand what owls eat. You can order owl pellets [online](#). Be sure to supervise this activity.

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

Peekaboo Bear

Written by Camilla Reid; Illustrated by Ingela P. Arrhenius

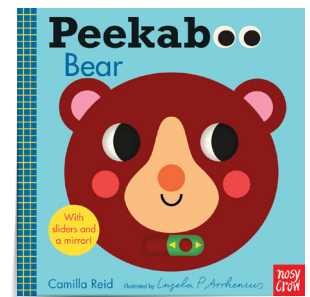
Bright, charming illustrations and something to push, pull, or slide on each page make this book about animals and nature an instant hit with babies and toddlers.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Offer a lesson on handling books.** Show your child the front cover and say, “This is the cover, this is where we start. Let’s turn the pages.” Then demonstrate how to operate each sliding mechanism. Say something like, “I wonder what this does. Oh, look at the ladybug!”
- ▶ **Build anticipation.** Read the book with enthusiasm. Ask your child to find things on each page, or ask questions, e.g., “What does a bear say?”

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Take a nature walk.** Look for things you saw in the book. Maybe you’ll spot a tree, a bug, or a bunny.
- ▶ **Peek in the mirror.** Don’t forget the mirror at the end of the book. Encourage your baby to look at it and say with excitement, “Who’s there? Oh, it’s you. Look at your pretty brown (blue, etc.) eyes.” Continue to describe your child.



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 *So You Want to Be an Owl* by Jane Porter. Join Mr. Nate as he plays a question game to explore the animals, people, and things around us!



[Watch the video here!](#)

PRESCHOOL

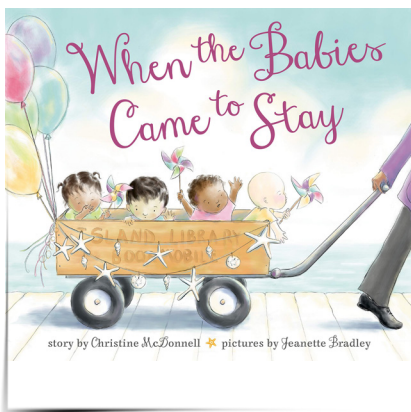
When the Babies Came to Stay

Written by Christine McDonnell; Illustrated by Jeanette Bradley

Four little babies arrived on a small island. No one knew where they came from or who they were, but the librarian knew what to do. (Librarians usually know the answers). She took the babies to her cozy nest in the attic above the library and made them a home. A gentle, joyful celebration of books, community, family, and the beauty and worth of each individual child.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Slow down.** This book has a peaceful, gentle tone – perfect for bedtime. Snuggle in, slow down, and take time to look at each illustration. Notice the facial expressions.
- ▶ **Talk about the community.** The librarian became the babies' mother, but she didn't raise them alone. Point out all the people who loved the babies. Think about the people in your community who help you.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Learn more about the setting.** If you live in a coastal area, you can explore firsthand. Learn about the many jobs people do, or discover the names of birds, plants, and animals. Otherwise, read books or research online to learn about harbormasters, ferrymen, and other aspects of island or coastal life.
- ▶ **Get creative.** Everyone pitched in to make a nursery for the babies. The fisherman made cradles from lobster traps, while the harbormaster made curtains from sails. Offer a few materials, e.g., cardboard tubes and boxes, wood scraps, or plastic bowls, and challenge your child to make something.
- ▶ **Explore the nature near you.** The babies grew up learning about “marshes, inlets, coves, and flats, the scent of low tide and the crunch of sand.” Find out what natural wonders are near you.

SCHOOL-AGE (GRADES 3-6)

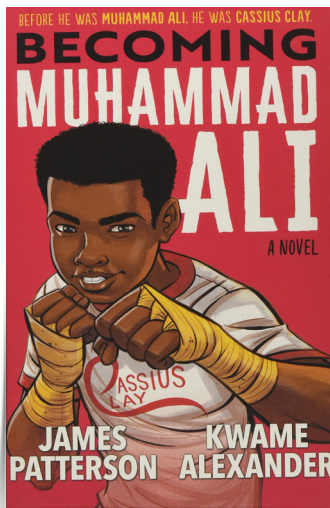
Becoming Muhammad Ali

Written by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander; Illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

This is the story of Muhammad Ali like you've never heard it before. Part verse, part narrative, the story describes the boxer's childhood in Louisville, Kentucky with humor and warmth.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Introduce poetry.** If your child hasn't read much poetry, share that poetry often contains an entire story or image in a few lines. It seems simple, but usually isn't. Encourage your child to stop and think about each poem for a few minutes, rather than racing to the next one.
- ▶ **Discuss the book.** This book is packed with interesting things to discuss, such as Muhammed Ali's wonderfully supportive and colorful family, his determination and resilience, and his experiences with discrimination and racism.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Learn more.** Help your child research topics from the book that they found most interesting. Learn about boxing or the Civil Rights Movement. Find out more about Kentucky or make some of the foods described in the story.
- ▶ **Write some poetry.** Encourage your child to write a poem or two. Base the poems on personal experiences, feelings, or impressions and try to use words to paint images in the reader's mind.