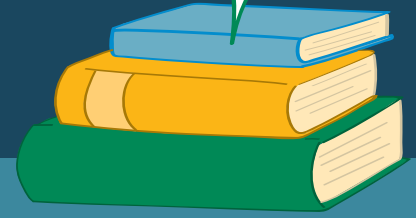


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

February
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

We All Play



Written and Illustrated by Julie Flett

Who likes to play? We all do! Birds chase and chirp, whales swim and squirt, and bobcats nudge and nuzzle. People play too in this joyful celebration of connection with each other and nature.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Take your time.** Read the story once through slowly. Pause to take in the soft illustrations on each page.
- ▶ **Act it out.** When you read the story another day, act out each page with your child. Slip and slide, rumble and roll, or wiggle and wobble.
- ▶ **Read and repeat.** Children love the sense of mastery they gain from reading a predictable story repeatedly. Once your child is familiar with the story, read it and pause occasionally. Let your child fill in the missing words. Your child can call out, “We play too!” for example.
- ▶ **Learn some new words.** Julie Flett is a Cree-Métis author and illustrator. Explore the glossary at the end of the book to learn some Cree words.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Watch for animals.** Become more aware of the animals and birds living in your neighborhood. Go for a walk in the early morning or at dusk when animals are most active. Watch for signs of animals such as tracks and scat. Set up a bird feeder outside your home. Make a list of all the animals that live near you.
- ▶ **Dig deeper.** As you read the story, pay attention to the animals that seem most interesting to your child. Read books or do an internet search to learn more about those animals.
- ▶ **Shadow animals.** Use a flashlight and your hands to make [shadow animals](#) on the wall. Make birds, rabbits, or even a bear.

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

A is for Ant

Written by DK; Illustrated by Kate Slater

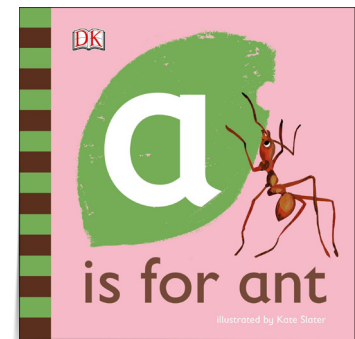
From anthills to anteaters, this board book is a charming introduction to the fascinating world of ants.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Build vocabulary.** Depending on your child's age, point out new words such as *larvae* or *antennae*.
- ▶ **Serve and return.** [Serve and return](#) is a conversational back-and-forth technique that builds children's language skills. Respond to your child's gestures or comments about the book with enthusiasm.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Watch for ants.** When you're out for walks, look for ants. How many can you see? Are they moving crumbs or working together? During the winter, point out anthills if no ants are visible.
- ▶ **Count the ants.** As you read the book again, count the ants on each page. Notice the varied colors of ants.
- ▶ **Check out the series.** This is the first book in an alphabet series, each of which looks at a particular animal that begins with that letter.



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 "We All Play" by Julie Flett. This endearing story compares the play of animals and children, and emphasizes connections in nature. Join Teacher Nate in learning some of the Cree vocabulary featured within the book.



[Watch the video here!](#)

Notable Books *Continued...*

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

The Singer and the Scientist

Written by Lisa Rose; Illustrated by Isabel Muñoz

In 1937, Marian Anderson sang at the McCarter Theatre. The all-white audience applauded her, but forgot her as soon as the curtain went down. The theater owner even refused to find her a room for the night. Albert Einstein saw Marian's performance and invited her to stay with him. This charming book describes the lifelong friendship of these two remarkable people.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Have a conversation.** Picture books like “The Singer and the Scientist” can provoke wonderful conversations. Ask your child open-ended questions like, “Have you ever felt invisible or alone? What did you do? Have you ever seen anyone else feeling invisible? How do you think they felt? What did you do?”
- ▶ **Reflect on the illustrations.** Isabel Muñoz's illustrations are rich in color, detail, and emotional affect. Take time to look at the characters' facial expressions and body language.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Learn to be an upstander.** Explain to your child that being an *upstander* means you notice others' needs and you're willing to help. This might mean asking friends not to gossip or make unkind comments. It might mean inviting a lonely child to play. Albert Einstein was an upstander when he tutored his neighbor and helped Marian.
- ▶ **Discover more.** There is so much to investigate in this story. Learn more about Albert Einstein, violins, and Marian Anderson. Watch Marian's 1939 [performance](#) at the Lincoln Memorial.

SCHOOL-AGE (3RD-6TH)

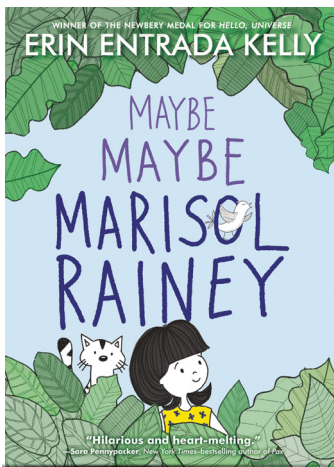
Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey

Written and Illustrated by Erin Entrada Kelly

Marisol Rainey wants to be brave, but she's just so scared. Discover how she learns to overcome her anxiety and try new things. Hilarious, charming, and totally relatable characters.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Talk it out.** Ask your child, "Is there something that you were afraid to do? How did you overcome your fear?"
- ▶ **Study character development.** This story has some great characters. Talk with your child about the things that make them so memorable, e.g., they have distinct opinions, motivations, and experiences.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Have an adventure.** Go swimming, climb a tree, or just make a fort in your living room.
- ▶ **Map the neighborhood.** Go for a walk, paying close attention to the houses, businesses, trees, people, and even pets in your neighborhood. Based on your memory, create a large map of your neighborhood.
- ▶ **Name it.** Marisol thought everything important should have a name. Ask your child why that might be. Why do names matter? Perhaps your child would like to name important objects, e.g., stuffed animals, the family car, or a tree.