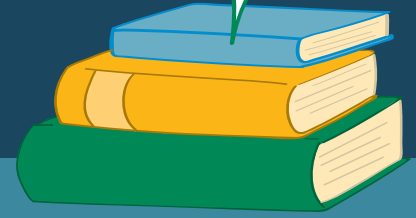


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

June
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

PRESCHOOL

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

May Your Life Be Deliciosa

Written by Michael Genhart; Illustrated by Loris Lora

Every Christmas, Rosie made tamales with her family. Before they began, abuela shared her secret recipe – the one woven in her heart. A glorious depiction of family love, storytelling, and traditions.



Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Slow down.** “May Your Life Be Deliciosa” is the story of one family’s commitment to community and each other. Steeped in meaningful traditions and values, it’s a story worth savoring. Find a warm, cozy place to share it with your child.
- ▶ **Point out the illustrations.** Loris Lora uses layered graphics to create vivid illustrations. Notice the graphic shapes and patterns combined with creative use of text and paint. Ask your child why some of the illustrations are done in sepia tones (they represent memories).
- ▶ **Compare and contrast.** How is this family’s celebration similar to your family’s traditions? How is it different? Point out and explain elements that might be unfamiliar such as the use of storytelling masks or symbols for honoring the dead (ofrenda).

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Learn more.** Learn more about Rosie’s cultural traditions or dive into learning about another culture. Make a commitment to connect with the people in your neighborhood or community. What are their traditions? What do they value?
- ▶ **Sample some tamales.** Try making tamales at home (be prepared to take some time), or buy prepared tamales.
- ▶ **Learn about your family’s stories.** Look at old photos and retell familiar family stories.

We believe that books have the power to build empathy in children, introducing them to new perspectives and ideas. Through stories, children come to understand others’ hopes, dreams, joys, and sorrows. We’re committed to offering diverse stories and voices to our readers.

Notable Books

Other great books we recommend.

Point your smart phone camera at the code to link to the Growing Readers website for more book recommendations.



INFANT & TODDLER

Thank You, Tree

Written by editors of Storey Publishing; Illustrated by Fiona Lee

This simple board book introduces young children to trees and all their natural gifts and glories.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Find each tree.** Each tree is illustrated and labeled at the end of the book. Help your child find and identify the trees throughout the book.
- ▶ **Learn the names.** On a second reading, be sure to share the names of each tree: *magnolia*, *maple*, *birch*, and *cedar*. Talk about each tree's gifts, such as flowers, maple syrup, or a place to hide. What else do trees give us?

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Discover real trees.** Go for a walk or explore the trees in your yard at various times of the year. Point out each tree's attributes, such as leaves, flowers, or interesting bark. Let your child explore nontoxic sticks, leaves, and flowers. How does the tree change during the year?
- ▶ **Bring nature indoors.** Cut a few pussy willows or crabapple blossoms and display them in a vase. Serve pancakes with maple syrup. Offer wooden blocks, or even make "tree cookies" from cut and sanded tree branches.



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 and Ms. Dary for this month's video featuring the book "May Your Life Be Deliciosa." This lovely story celebrates tradition, food, and family.



[Watch the video here!](#)

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 *Continued...*

PRESCHOOL

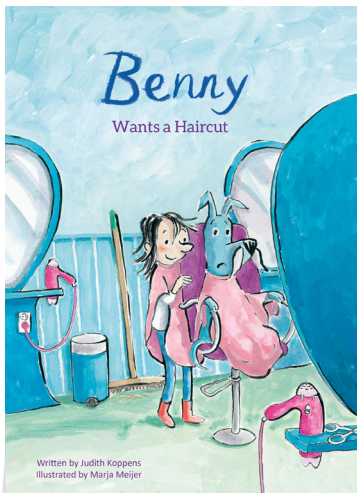
Benny Wants a Haircut

Written by Judith Koppens; Illustrated by Marja Meijers

When Sam goes to get a haircut, her dog Benny wants a turn too. A sweet, funny story about friendship and hospitality.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Notice the visual storytelling.** As you read the story, pause to look at the illustrations, which reveal funny moments and silly character depictions not mentioned in the text.
- ▶ **Describe the characters.** What do you know about the characters in the story? Pierre, for example, is an exceptionally kind hairdresser. He offers everyone a magazine and he doesn't mind Benny biting at his ankles or even making messes on the floor. He even offers to give Benny a haircut.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Play emotions charades.** Sam thought Benny was scared, but Pierre knew that Benny wanted a haircut. How do we know what someone else is feeling? Our words, our faces, our body language, or our actions reveal our emotions. Think of some scenarios and ask how your child would feel. How might your child show their feelings?
- ▶ **Make a pet beauty salon.** Encourage your child to set up a salon for their stuffed animals or animal toys. What does each animal need? Do some animals need different things than other animals?