

BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

May
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.

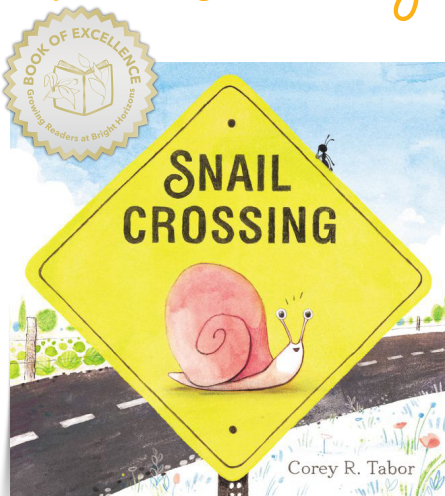
Book of Excellence

NEW!

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

PRESCHOOL

Snail Crossing



Written and Illustrated by Corey R. Tabor

Snail must get across the road. He's cabbage bound and nothing can stand in his way! Children will love this wacky story of perseverance and friendship.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Inspect the illustrations.** Corey Tabor has added quirky little elements in almost every scene. Look closely to notice the ants following Snail early in the story, or the clock on the wall that features days of the week instead of hours.
- ▶ **Introduce alliteration.** Point out alliteration, such as “grumblin’ gray” or “Snail scooted.” Offer definitions for new words like “ponder.”

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Discuss the story.** Ask a few open-ended questions to start the conversation. “Have you ever done something really hard? Have friends helped you? How did you feel?”
- ▶ **Paint a scene.** Corey Tabor used several mediums such as watercolor, ink, and colored pencils for his illustrations. Offer your child a variety of art materials. Encourage them to explore, experiment, and create.
- ▶ **Pretend.** Your child will probably be delighted by Tabor’s depiction of a tea party inside a snail shell. Help your child set up a cozy space under a table or in a box for a tea party.
- ▶ **Write a thank you note.** Snail helped the ants and the ants helped Snail. That’s how friendship works. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a friend.
- ▶ **Learn more.** Read books about snails and ants or do research online. What are they like in real life? Are ants really strong enough to carry a cabbage?

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

Tummy Time Friends

Written by Pat Brisson

Gentle and encouraging, this book features images of adorable babies and a simple rhyme.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Find the surprise.** Read the last page and turn the book over to read more.
- ▶ **Point out visual elements.** Describe what you see in each image. “Look, they have a lot of hair. This baby has brown eyes. Here are two babies.”

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Offer tummy time.** After reading the book, spread a blanket on the floor and let your baby rest on their tummy. Stay with your baby and make it fun. Sing and talk to your baby.
- ▶ **Add something new.** Add interest to tummy time with safe objects, such as a shiny bowl or a mirror. Use non-breakable objects only and avoid those that could be choking hazards.



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

Join Mr. Nate as he reads *Snail Crossing* by Corey R. Tabor—a delightfully witty story featuring a journey of perseverance, kindness, and friendship! You'll be inspired to explore the world around you by going on a mapmaking adventure.



Watch the video here!

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

Digging for Words

Written by Angela Burke Kunkel; Illustrated by Paola Escobar

This true story features José Alberto Gutiérrez, a Colombian garbage collector who took it upon himself to create a library in La Nueva Gloria barrio in the year 2000.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Get oriented.** Find Bogotá on a map. Explain to your child that Bogotá is a very large city (with 11 million people) in South America.
- ▶ **Read the story.** Take time to look at the rich illustrations and answer your child's questions.

Ask open-ended questions:

What kind of books does your child like to read?

How might it be to live in a place with no library?

Point out that José created a library all by himself. He saw a need and quietly went to work. Talk about needs in your community.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Thank a librarian.** José's story fosters an appreciation for libraries, something most of us take for granted. Draw a picture, send a thank-you note, or visit in person to tell a librarian thank you for making books available.
- ▶ **Have a book celebration.** Help your child gather beloved books. Read a few favorites together, share them with family or friends, draw pictures related to the books, or even make a celebration snack.

SCHOOL-AGE (3RD-6TH)

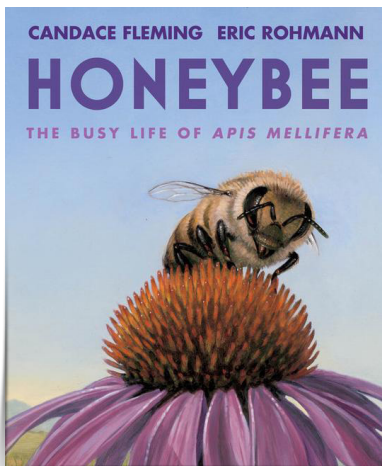
Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera

Written by Candace Fleming; Illustrated by Eric Rohmann

This extraordinary book offers an up-close look at the world of bees. What makes this book so special is its intimate portrayal of one honeybee. You'll learn interesting facts about bees, of course, but more important, you'll be filled with empathy and wonder for these amazing insects.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Go slow.** Suggested for older elementary school-age children, this picture book is packed with gorgeous illustrations and fascinating details. Stop to talk and think about each page. Share your musings with your child, e.g., "I didn't know each bee did several jobs" or "I never realized how short a bee's life is." Read the book more than once or savor it for a few days rather than digesting it in one sitting.
- ▶ **Get the facts.** Spend some time reading the facts about bees at the end of the book. Visit the websites listed there or make a list of all the things you learned.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Become bee advocates.** Visit a local beekeeper to learn about beekeeping in your area. Plant flowers that attract bees, limit pesticide use, or place a bee hotel in your garden.
- ▶ **Sample honey.** Did you know that different types of flowers produce different types of honey? Try some local honey and notice differences in color, texture, and flavor.