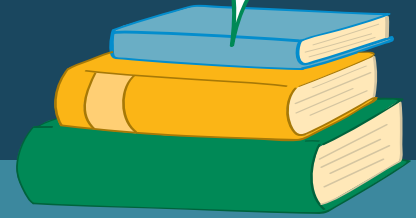


BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Celebrating
20 Years

May
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.

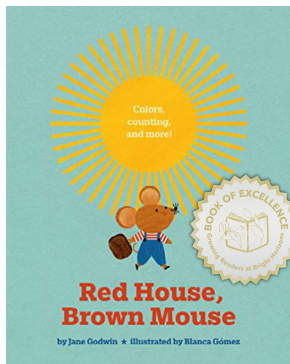
Book of Excellence

INFANT & TODDLER

NEW!

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

Red House, Brown Mouse



Written by Jane Godwin; Illustrated by Blanca Gómez

With the help of a little brown mouse, this concept book explores colors, numbers, rhymes, and much more. Clever questions draw readers in, encouraging language development. Joyful and engaging, this book will likely become a favorite read-aloud for little ones.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Answer the questions.** Almost every page poses a question to engage little readers. How many petals do the flowers have? What colors are the berries?
- ▶ **Check out the illustrations.** From the penguins on the train, to the cactus in the window, each page is packed with things to discover. Find the mouse on every page and point out other whimsical elements.
- ▶ **Use simple props.** Add a toy mouse, train, or bus to the story. Snack on some cut grapes together as you read.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make real-life connections.** What color is your house? What are your favorite fruits? What color are your shoes? Use the book to spark vocabulary as you explore your own surroundings.
- ▶ **Offer related experiences.** Add a toy boat or cups to the bathtub, or explore objects that sink or float. Set up a toy train or watch a real train go by. Go for a walk in your neighborhood and point out the bicycles.

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.



PRESCHOOL

Oscar's Tower of Flowers

Written and Illustrated by Lauren Tobia

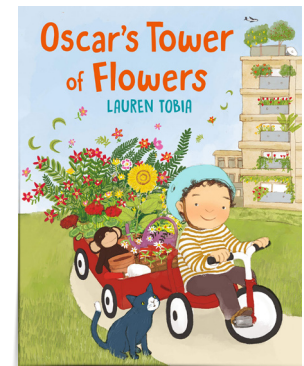
Oscar is sad when someone he loves goes away, but while she is gone, he plants and shares a garden and makes new friends. A celebration of family, community, and the healing power of nature.

Wordless Book Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Tell it together.** Point out that this book has no words, but uses illustrations to tell the story. Look at the pictures together and let your child help you tell the story.
- ▶ **Make text to self-connections.** Have you and your child ever been apart for a few days? How did that feel? What did your child do for comfort? Have you ever grown a garden? Discuss the elements of the story that are relatable to your own family.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Make a list of favorites.** Oscar loved his stuffed monkey, the cat, his red wagon, and his favorite person. What are your child's favorite things? Make a list and illustrate it.
- ▶ **Go green.** Visit a nursery and pick up a few seeds. Grow some flowers or vegetables to share with your neighbors.
- ▶ **Reach out to neighbors.** Oscar felt less lonely as he developed community. Challenge your family to get to know your neighbors.



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 the book "Red House, Brown Mouse" which will have you noticing delightful little details on every page. Then, discover the details around your space by playing a classic game of *I Spy With My Little Eye* with the special child in your life!



[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...*

SCHOOL-AGE (GRADES 4-6)

A Place to Hang the Moon

Written by **Kate Albus**

Three orphaned siblings long for a family. Their evacuation from London during World War II just might be the opportunity they're looking for. Beautifully written and full of heart.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Get cozy.** This is a wonderful family read-aloud. Make some tea, cuddle in bed, and enjoy it together.
- ▶ **Offer context.** Talk with your child about World War II and the evacuation of children from London. Find London on a map or look up images of the English countryside on the internet.
- ▶ **Build vocabulary.** Anna collected words like *formidable*, *astute*, and *dignified*. Briefly share the definitions of unfamiliar words in the story.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Discuss the big topics.** William, Edmund, and Anna encounter some truly horrible human beings – at least that is the initial impression. Does your perspective change as the book continues? What fears, needs, or experiences influenced people's behavior? The refugee children were feared because they were "outsiders." Have you ever been an outsider? How did that feel? Have you ever noticed someone being excluded? How did you help them?
- ▶ **Go to the library.** *A Place to Hang the Moon* is a celebration of the literary life. Visit the library and check out some of William, Edmund, and Anna's book recommendations.