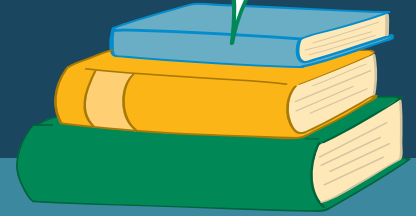


# BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

OCTOBER  
2020

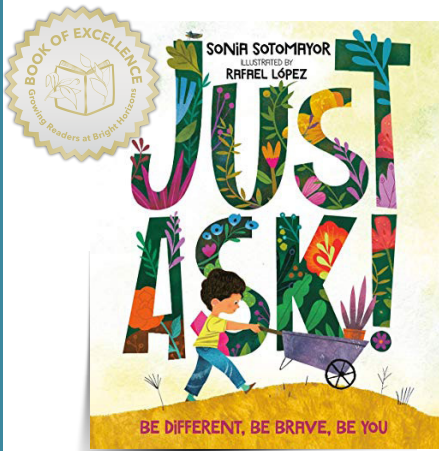


*Books of Excellence and Notable books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.*

## Book of Excellence

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

Just Ask!



**Written by Sonia Sotomayor; Illustrated by Rafael López**

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's lovely book depicts her planting a garden with friends. Just as the many different flowers add beauty and variety to her garden, her friends are all different too. Rafael has asthma. Sometimes he needs quiet time to catch his breath. Madison and Arturo are blind, which means their other senses are very acute. Sotomayor urges readers to celebrate differences and says, "If you're curious about other kids, just ask."

### Storytelling Tips

Read the story slowly, or perhaps over several days. Share a time when you were a child and felt different or struggled with something. Share a time when you felt strong and competent. Ask your child to share their experiences.

Discuss the questions in the book, such as, "Are you really good at something?" and "Do you ever wonder if people understand you?"

### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Visit a garden, park, or farmer's market and observe the varied flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Point out the beauty of the plants' varying shapes, colors, and attributes.
- ▶ Paint some rocks with cheery sayings and images. Leave the rocks in your neighborhood for others to enjoy.
- ▶ Use cones or boxes to make an obstacle course in your driveway or on a sidewalk. Challenge your child to move through the obstacle course quickly on foot, on a bike, rollerblades, etc.
- ▶ Sit outside together and close your eyes. What sounds can you hear? What do you smell?
- ▶ Learn a few basic American Sign Language signs.

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

### *So Light, So Heavy*

**Written and Illustrated by Susanne Strasser**

Zoop! Zippity Zap! Whoop! Elephant wants to teeter-totter but he's too heavy. That is, until he gets some help from his friends—penguin, monkey, ostrich, giraffe, hippo, and dino! Bright illustrations, playful vocabulary, and a repetitive text will have little ones begging for more.

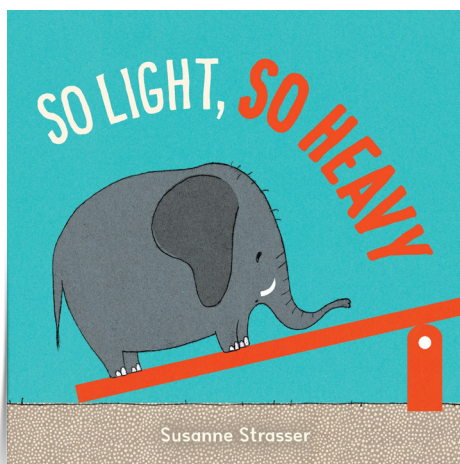
### Storytelling Tips

Exaggerate and draw out the silly words, zoop, zippity zap, whoop, etc.

Occasionally stop and review which animals are on the teeter totter, counting them as you go. "Let's see. We have elephant, penguin, monkey, and ostrich. That makes 1, 2, 3, 4 animals."

Gather any props you might have, such as toy animals, to use as you tell the story. Roll a piece of construction paper to make a trumpet.

Read the story more than once. Ask your child, "What will happen next?" or "Which animal is coming now?"



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Create a miniature teeter totter with a 6" rectangular strip of cardboard. Tape a glue stick (or other tubular object) vertically under the center of the cardboard to act as the fulcrum. Encourage your child put small toys on the teeter totter and retell the story.
- ▶ Find items that are heavy and light. Compare them or weigh them.

## PRESCHOOL

### One Dark Bird

Written by Liz Garton Scanlon; Illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon

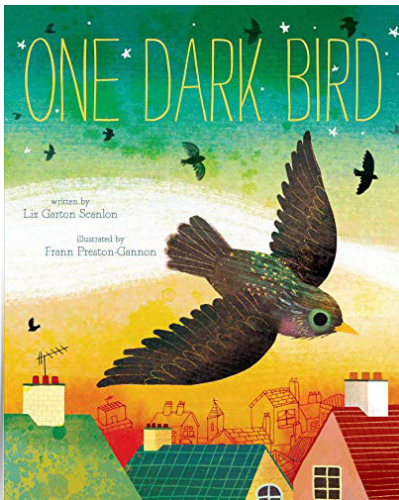
“One dark bird perched way up high, a view of town, a taste of sky.” Poetic and whimsical, this book describes the phenomenon of *murmuration*, or the coordinated flight of starlings.

### Storytelling Tips

Read the book slowly, taking time to explore the illustrations. Read the book again another day. This time, gently and casually point out a few aspects of the book. “Did you hear that? Some of the words rhyme—*cloud* and *crowd*, *alert* and *divert*.”

Point out alliteration—*fine feathered friends*, *wharble*, *whistle*, etc.

Be sure to read the opening description of starling behavior—*murmuration*.



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Do an internet search to learn more about starlings. Watch for them in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Look at the illustrations. Notice how the artist used tools to create texture. Offer your child paint, markers, pencils, and a variety of tools, such as twigs or combs. Challenge your child to paint and add details with the tools and writing implements.

## SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

### *Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented*

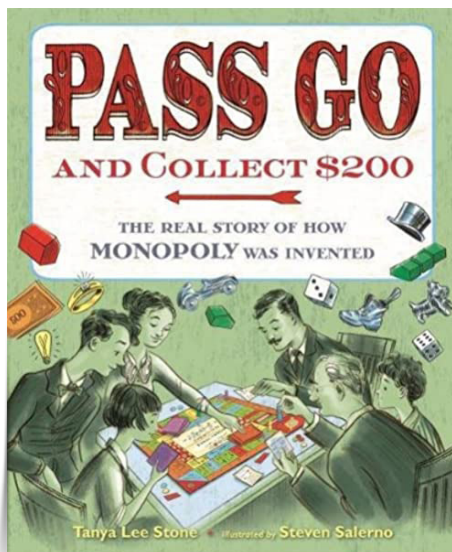
**Written by Tanya Lee Stone; Illustrated by Steven Salerno**

Tanya Lee Stone passes Go in this engaging story about the history of the board game “Monopoly.” Meet Elizabeth Magie, a writer, poet, and activist who invented the game after watching the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

#### Storytelling Tips

Introduce your child to “Monopoly” or “Monopoly Junior” if they’ve never played it before.

Briefly explain unfamiliar words, such as *patent* or *monopoly*.



#### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Play a round of “Monopoly.” Do you want to change any of the rules?
- ▶ Try making your own board game. How will you design it? What will it be about?
- ▶ Do an internet search to learn more about the Industrial Revolution and the Great Depression.
- ▶ Talk about the problem of unfair rents. Discuss possible solutions and their potential results and consequences.

## SCHOOL-AGE (GR. 4-6)

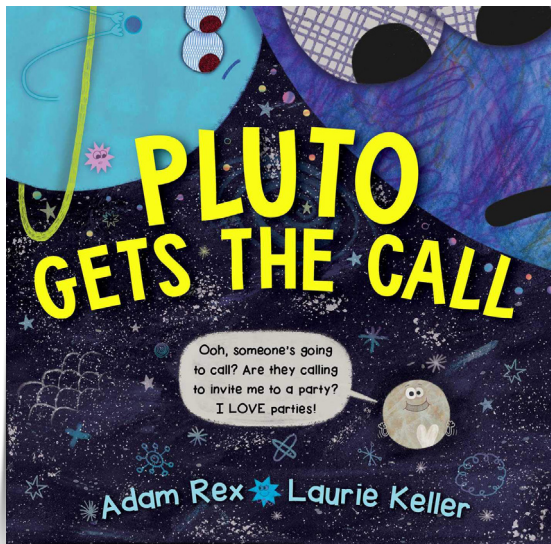
### Pluto Gets the Call

**Written by Adam Rex; illustrated by Laurie Keller**

Pluto's been downgraded from a planet to an ice dwarf. Now what? In this hilarious romp through the solar system, we learn about planets, asteroids, black holes, and more as Pluto finds a solution for his intergalactic woes.

### Storytelling Tips

Look at a diagram of the solar system before you read the story. Do an internet search to learn about Pluto. Read and laugh over this story together.



### Extend the Learning

- ▶ Challenge your child to create an imaginary planet. What would it look like? Would it be habitable? Who would live there?
- ▶ Ask your child to write a story about the planet, using dialogue bubbles.