

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

Noah's Seal

Written and Illustrated by Layn Marlow

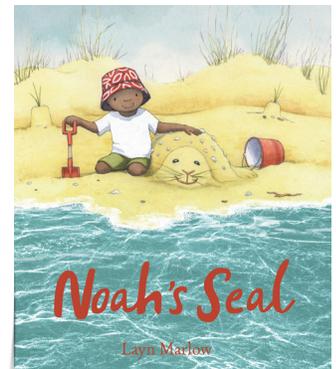
Noah can't wait to see the seals, but his grandmother must fix the sailboat first. While he waits, Noah creates a seal from sand, pebbles, and seaweed. After a storm blows in, Noah's seal seems to be gone. Or is it?

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Match your storytelling to the book's tone.** "Noah's Seal" is a quiet book with its themes of familial love, nature, imagination, and magic. Try reading this book in a quiet, outdoor spot or in a cozy chair. It's a great bedtime story.
- ▶ **Point out the alliteration.** Layn Marlow uses several literary devices to add to the poetry of this book. Alliteration is just one. Pause on phrases like *wild wide sea* or the *wind whips*. Say, "I hear a lot of 'w' sounds there."
- ▶ **Make text-to-self connections.** Reading becomes more meaningful when children can relate what they read to their own lives. Have you ever been to the beach or molded something out of sand?

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Get out the paints.** Layn Marlow uses beautiful watercolors overlaid with ink and pastels. Offer your child some watercolors and sturdy paper. Add pencils, pens, crayons, or even a bit of salt to give the painting more texture.
- ▶ **Explore nature.** Go for a walk in your neighborhood. Gather twigs, pebbles, pinecones, or shells and use them to decorate a creation made from clay or sand. Find shapes in the clouds. Imaginative experiences with nature build children's creativity.
- ▶ **Learn more about seals.** Visit a zoo or the beach, read library books, or do an internet search. Do seals really have speckles and whiskers?



Check it out!

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 "Animals from A to Z: Exploring the Americas" and go on a family adventure in search of the plants and animals where you live. You may even want to journal your findings in your very own A to Z alphabet book!



[Watch the video here!](#)

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Notable Books *Continued...*

SCHOOL-AGE (K-2)

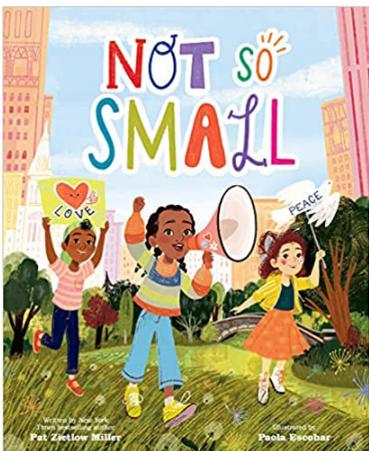
Not So Small

Written by Pat Zietlow Miller; Illustrated by Paola Escobar

We all feel small sometimes, but this book explores the power of just one person to do good. Positive and empowering, *Not So Small* offers concrete ideas and encouragement for kids.

Storytelling Tips

- ▶ **Ask Questions.** This story is full of topics worth discussing. Does your child ever feel small? What makes them feel confident? Has your child ever done something that brought about a change?
- ▶ **Notice the setting.** Many pages of the story depict various urban landscapes. Why do you think the illustrator chose these settings? For example, a page that discusses friendship, truth, and fairness also depicts a bookstore. Perhaps that's because reading widely can help cultivate these values.



Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore the story's natural elements.** The story introduces acorns, pebbles, snowflakes, and dandelions as items in nature that seem small, but create powerful change. Compare an acorn to a giant oak tree. Throw a pebble in a lake and watch the rings spread outward. Watch for the first snowflakes that predict a storm or look at images of a field of dandelions.
- ▶ **Compare sizes.** Voices, buildings, and walls are big, according to the story. What things in your child's life feel big? What things feel small? Grab a few items of various sizes and ask your child to sort them by size.
- ▶ **Do something.** Is your child a talker, a writer, or a walker? Or maybe all three? Challenge your child to do something to create positive change. Maybe it's talking to a lonely neighbor or new child at school, writing a postcard, or walking to the local food pantry to donate food.