

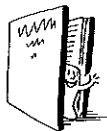
Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

September 2018

Oxford Public Schools

Title I



Book Picks

■ Grand Canyon (Jason Chin)

Follow a father and daughter as they hike the Grand Canyon. This illustrated story presents facts about the spectacular landform's geology, plant and animal life, and more. A detailed map shows an overhead view of the canyon.



■ Taking Sides (Gary Soto)

Lincoln Mendoza loves playing on his school basketball team with his

best friends. But when his family moves to the suburbs, he has to change teams.



Can Lincoln compete against his old team without losing friends? (Also available in Spanish.)

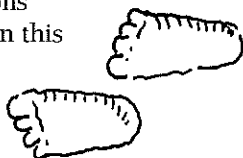
■ Out of Wonder

(Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth)

In this poetry collection, three poets come together to celebrate their favorite poets. They pay homage to those who inspired them to begin writing poetry—Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, and Gwendolyn Brooks, to name a few.

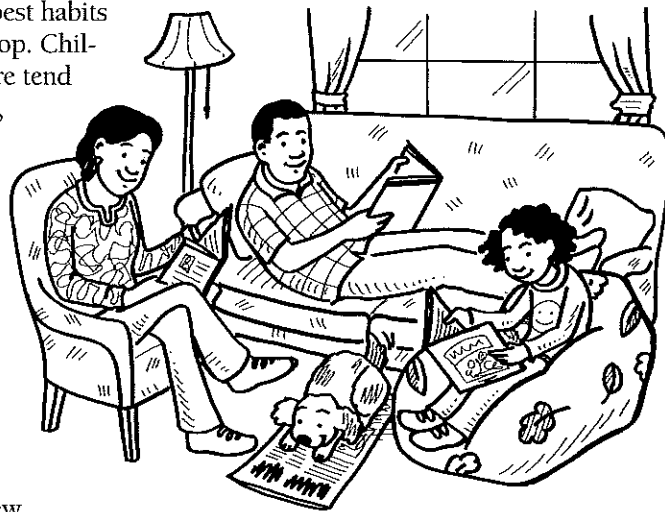
■ Lemons (Melissa Savage)

Lemonade Liberty Witt's life is turned upside down when she has to move in with her grandpa. Her new town is the Bigfoot Capital of the World, and Lem befriends Tobin Sky, who is obsessed with finding Bigfoot. Find out how Lem turns lemons into lemonade in this story about overcoming struggles.



A love of reading

Reading is one of the best habits your youngster can develop. Children who read for pleasure tend to have higher test scores, bigger vocabularies, and better reading comprehension. Steer your child toward a lifetime of reading with these ideas.



Choose books wisely

Suggest that your youngster find books that will hold her interest. Have her read the back cover and the first few pages to see if the book grabs her. It often helps if she has something in common with a story's main character. For instance, a child fascinated by machines may enjoy Roz the robot in *The Wild Robot* (Peter Brown).

Make time for reading

Between homework, friends, and activities, it's not always easy to fit in reading. Try setting aside a time when the entire family reads (after dinner, before bed). Also, encourage your

youngster to put books in the car so she can read during errands or while waiting in a dentist's office.

Meet other readers

Reading is contagious! If your child finds friends who like to read, they may share books and enjoy discussing them. Perhaps she'll notice kids who read after they finish a class assignment, or she could pay attention to which books her classmates choose in the library. She can strike up a conversation later: "Do you have a series to recommend?"

A prewriting toolbox

Before writing a report or an essay, your child needs to organize his information. A graphic organizer is just the ticket! Consider these formats.

- **Flowcharts** work well for book reports or history essays where one event follows another. Encourage your youngster to write each event in a separate box ("found stray dog," "made flyers") and draw an arrow from one box to the next.
- **Venn diagrams** compare and contrast two things. Say your child's report is about things that fly. He would first draw two overlapping circles. Then, he could list facts specific to hot-air balloons ("carry people") in the outer part of one circle. Facts exclusive to kites ("steered by string") go in the other circle's outer section. And shared traits ("made of nylon") belong in the overlapping space.



Beginnings and endings

The way your child starts and ends a writing assignment can make a big difference in his finished product. Help him create a good first—and last—impression with these suggestions.



- **Set a scene.** “A line of camels marches across the desert. The air is dry and hot, and there’s no water in sight.”

Memorable conclusions

The ending should wrap things up in a way the reader will remember. A good conclusion shows how all the information

in a paper fits together. Here are some possibilities:

- **Summarize the main points.** “Its large hump, unusual eyes, and big feet make the camel the best form of transportation in the desert.”
- **Echo the introduction.** “A camel isn’t just interesting to look at. Its unique features help people travel in a hot, dry climate.”
- **Close with instructions.** “If you visit the desert, take a ride on a camel. His hump, eyes, and feet will get you where you need to go.”

Attention-grabbing introductions

A powerful beginning pulls the reader in. Your youngster might:

- **Kick off with a question.** “Did you ever wonder why camels have humps?”
- **Use an interesting fact.** “Camels have three eyelids and two rows of eyelashes per eye.”



Fun with Words What doesn't belong?

Hammock, swimming, hammer, aluminum, summer... which word doesn't belong? (*Aluminum*, because it's the only one without a double *m* in the middle.)

Play this game with your child to help her look closely at words and learn their spellings or parts of speech.



1. Ask her to bring home a list of vocabulary or spelling words. Or she could make a list of words from the dictionary.
2. Choose three or more of the words that have something in common (vowel sound, prefix, suffix, part of speech, number of syllables).
3. Write the words down, along with a word from your youngster's list that doesn't fit your sorting rule. Then, she tries to name your rule.
4. Trade roles, and let her give you a set of words to figure out.

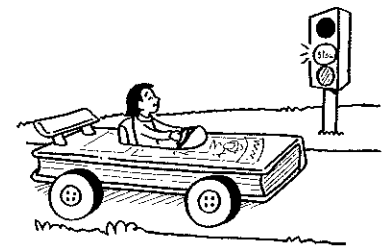
Q&A Slow down

Q My daughter reads so fast that she sometimes misses important facts. How can I help her slow down?

A Start by showing your child that reading too fast causes her to skip information. Try having her read a section, and then you read it aloud to her. Ask your youngster to hold up a finger each time she hears something that she doesn't remember reading.

Next, help your child find a way to focus while she's reading. When she has a textbook assignment, encourage her to break it up. If she has three science chapters to read in a week, she might read one a night for three nights instead of doing them all in one evening. She will slow down and concentrate better if she doesn't feel overwhelmed.

Finally, suggest that your youngster skim the text once and then carefully read it a second time. The second reading will help her catch things she missed the first time and let her see how reading more slowly helps.



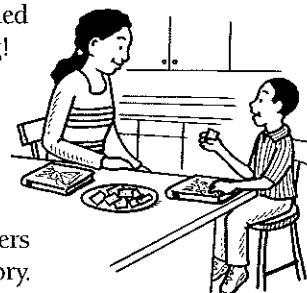
Parent 2 Parent Speaking of reading

Last year my son started reading more advanced books in school. I recognized some of the titles from when I was a child, and others were new to me. I leafed through one that he was finished with. I got hooked and ended up reading the whole thing!

What I didn't realize was that reading the same book as Jonas did would give us something new to talk about. We discussed our favorite characters and the best parts of the story.

Now we try to read a book together about once a month. We take turns picking a title, and then we check out two copies from the library.

When we've both finished, we sit at the kitchen table with a snack and talk about the story. Sometimes we find discussion questions online, usually on the book publisher's website. Since we started this tradition, we're both enjoying reading new books—and talking about them together!



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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Math + Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

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Title I



INFO BITS

How old am I?

Ask your child how old she is. The catch? You want her age in months, days, minutes, and seconds. She'll need to decide how to approach each problem and then solve it. She can use paper and pencil or a calculator. But watch out if she asks how many seconds old *you* are!

Science reading

When your youngster reads his science textbook, suggest this 3-2-1



strategy. Have him jot down 3 things he discovered, 2 things he found fascinating, and

1 question he still has. Looking for facts and questions will keep him focused on what he's reading—and help him learn more.

Book picks

■ *If You Were a Quadrilateral* (Molly Blaisdell) lets your child discover all the different things one shape can be.

■ Travel back to ancient China, and find out how a little boy used math and the science of buoyancy to weigh an elephant in *Cao Chong Weighs an Elephant* (Songju Ma Daemicke).



Just for fun

Q: What has 100 heads and 100 tails?

A: 100 pennies!

Playing with fractions

"We're halfway there." "I finished $\frac{3}{4}$ of my meal." "This recipe calls for $1\frac{2}{3}$ cups sugar." Hardly a day goes by that your youngster doesn't hear or use a fraction in everyday speech. Help him understand more about how fractions work with these ideas.



Make music

● Fractions are an expression of rhythm. Clap slowly, and tell your child to clap two, four, or eight times for every clap you make. He'll hear that each beat can be broken into fractions, and the fractions create the rhythm. For instance, each of his claps will take $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, or $\frac{1}{8}$ the time of yours.

● Have him line up six identical glasses and measure water into each: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup, 1 cup, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups. To play a song, he should strike each glass with a metal spoon. The pitch will change as he goes up the "scale"—showing the connection between fractions and music.

Divide up food

● Get two pretzel rods that are the same length. Ask your youngster to break one into 4 equal parts and the other into 8 equal parts. Then, he can line up pieces to find *equivalencies*. For example, he'll see that $\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$ or that $\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$.

● Let your child serve pizza and say the math as he gives each person 1 slice ($\frac{1}{8}$) or 2 slices ($\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$ of the pizza). Or cut an apple into eighths. He could use the wedges to add fractions and write down the equation he makes (example: $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$). Or he might eat 4 apple wedges and say the fraction that's left ($\frac{1}{2}$). 🍎

Fish detective

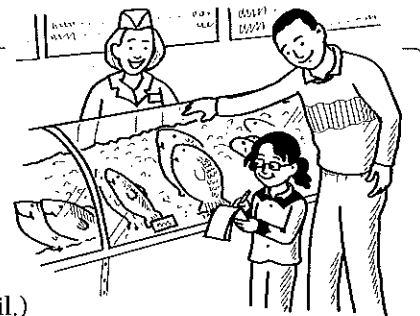
Did you know that buying fish for dinner can help your child learn more about animal life? When you're in the grocery store or fish market, have her look carefully at the whole fish displayed and consider these three questions.

1. Who are the fastest swimmers? (*Hint:* Pay attention to the shape of the body, fins, and tail.)

2. Which ones eat plants? Which ones eat other fish? (*Hint:* Notice the size and shape of the mouth and teeth.)

3. How can they hide from predators? (*Hint:* Think about how their colors help them blend in with their ocean surroundings.)

Idea: Your youngster can confirm her findings with the fishmonger or by making sketches, taking notes, and consulting books or websites later. 📖

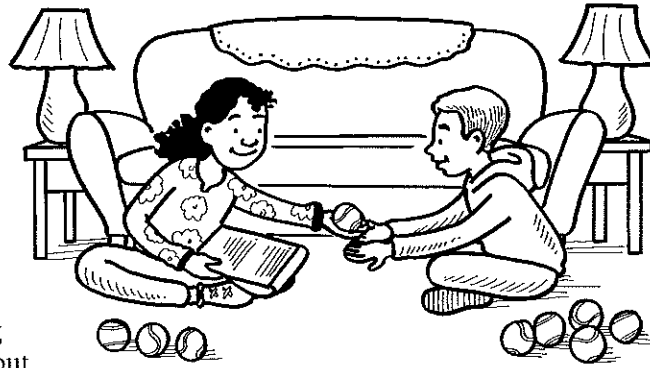



Word problem strategies

Drawing, acting, and writing are all hands-on ways for your youngster to approach word problems. Let her try these activities.

Draw a picture. Encourage your child to sketch the problem. Deciding how to illustrate it will help her pull out the important details and visualize what she has to solve.

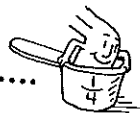
Act it out. It's fun for kids to put on shows. Have your youngster enlist a friend or sibling (or you!) and act out word



ones she's working on. Suggest that she use ideas from her daily life or make up scenarios. When she realizes she can write story problems as well as solve them, she'll feel she has "power" over word problems. 

problems. She can count out the objects mentioned, perform the task in the word problem, and see the answer that results.

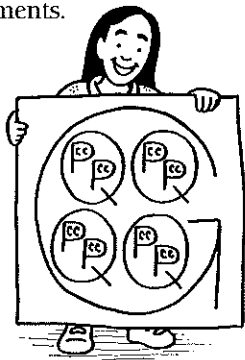
Create a story. Ask your child to rewrite the problem in her own words. Or she could create her own word problems that are similar to




MATH CORNER

What's in a gallon?

How many quarts are in a gallon? How many cups are in a pint? Here's a fun way to help your youngster remember the relationships among liquid measurements.



On a poster board, have her draw a large outline of the letter G for gallon. Inside the G, she should write four Qs to show that four quarts are in a gallon. She can put two Ps (two pints to a quart) inside each Q and two Cs (two cups to a pint) inside each P.

Next, have her use her "Big G" to figure out math problems. *Example:* The recipe calls for 4 cups of milk. How many pints should we buy? (2) Let your child make up questions for you, too. 

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Q & A

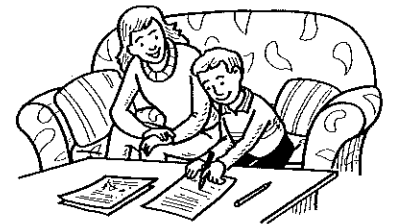
Help with homework

Q: Our son's math homework is getting harder for him this year. Should we help him with it?

A: You play an important supporting role in your youngster's homework. But remember it's *his* homework—and he'll learn the most by doing it himself. Also, when he turns in his own work, his teacher will be able to see what he knows and where he needs help.

If your child gets stuck on a math problem, you can guide him. For example, suggest that he look at sample problems in his textbook or classroom notes. Or ask him to read the directions out loud, and see if there are words he doesn't understand. You could also have him explain the method he's trying to use—teaching it to you might clear up his confusion.

Finally, if he's still unsure, encourage him to call the school's homework hotline or go to his teacher for help. 



SCIENCE LAB

Conserving water

The average person uses about 20 gallons of water to shower. Have your child multiply that by the number of people in your home—that's a lot of water! With this experiment, your youngster can see how engineers design products to save resources.

You'll need: 2 paper cups, pencil, straight pin, water, sink

Here's how: Let your child use a pencil to poke a few large holes in the bottom of one paper cup and a straight pin to make lots of small

holes in the bottom of the second cup. Then, he should fill a sink with water, hold a paper cup in each hand, and lower the cups straight down until they're underwater. Once they fill with water, have him lift them out at the same time and watch carefully as they drain.

What happens? The water will drain faster out of the cup with larger holes.

Why? Smaller holes slow down the flow of the water. So a showerhead with smaller holes will use less water—conserving water *and* saving your family money! 