Welcome to the Candlewick Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit

A Shortcut to Your Story Hour

It is with great pleasure that we present our sixth Candlewick Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit. This kit contains simple and entertaining activities to be used in conjunction with four titles that we consider exceptional books for story hours. Each activity is designed to foster the skills that lead to early reading success for children.

Our fall 2010 story-hour kit showcases four books focusing on themes of friendship, imagination, community, and adventure. For each title we offer two activities aimed at boosting children’s narrative skills, letter knowledge, print awareness, vocabulary, print motivation, or phonological awareness—but most of all, their creativity and enthusiasm. Because the caregiver’s role is essential in a child’s readiness to read, we have included a handout at the end of this kit that explains these six specific early literacy skills. Passing this out to caregivers will assist them in getting their child ready to read.

Have fun!

Books to be used with this Candlewick Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit

A Bedtime for Bear
by Bonny Becker
illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton
978-0-7636-4101-6
Ages 5–7

Brontorina
by James Howe
illustrated by Randy Cecil
978-0-7636-4437-6
Ages 4–8

Interrupting Chicken
written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein
978-0-7636-4168-9
Ages 4–8

Tiny Little Fly
by Michael Rosen
illustrated by Kevin Waldron
978-0-7636-4681-3
Age 2 and up
Directions

A Bedtime for Bear

Brave Bear, Frightened Mouse

When Bear becomes scared after hearing a sound, he wakes up the sleeping Mouse. In order to help Mouse return to sleep, Bear tells Mouse the story of the adventures of the Brave Strong Bear and the Very Frightened Little Mouse. Ask children to identify the opposite words in the story’s title (brave/frightened). Then have them complete the “Brave Bear, Frightened Mouse” reproducible.

This activity builds vocabulary and letter and word knowledge.

Good Night, Bear

Bear has a routine for all the things he does prior to going to sleep: he sets out his glass of water, adjusts his nightcap, fluffs his pillow, and finally climbs into bed. But most of all, Bear needs absolute silence to go to sleep. Ask children what they do at night to prepare for bed. Then use the “Good Night, Bear” reproducible to have them write or dictate and draw their list of nightly routines.

This activity promotes narrative skills and print motivation.

Brontorina

Helping Hearts

Ask children how Clara, Jack, Madame Lucille, and Clara’s mother help Brontorina in the story. Explain that when friends help one another, they are working together to improve a particular situation, whether in a classroom, in the community, or in one’s family. Ask the children to describe a time when they have helped a friend, a family member, or their community. Then use the “Helping Hearts” reproducible to have children create coupons for helping.

This activity fosters social skills and print motivation.

My Dream

Brontorina dreamed of becoming a dancer. She encountered several obstacles, but with the help of her friends, her dream came true. Ask children if they dream of becoming something or doing something special. Ask them to illustrate and write or dictate a description of their dream.

This activity builds narrative skills and creativity
Interrupting Chicken

Bedtime for Papa
With each bedtime story that Papa reads to the little red chicken, the chicken gets excited and interrupts by telling the end of the story. Finally, the little red chicken tells Papa a story, but she doesn’t get to finish it because Papa falls asleep. Use the “Bedtime for Papa” reproducible to have children finish the little red chicken’s bedtime story. Invite younger children to either draw a story or dictate it to an adult, and encourage older children to write out their own story.

This activity promotes creativity, print motivation, letter knowledge, and phonological awareness.

Out Jumps . . . !
The little red chicken is an enthusiastic participant in her story—perhaps much like the children in your group. Give children an opportunity to interrupt their own stories with this paper-plate puppet project.

Using the “Out Jumps . . . !” reproducible, have children color in the images of Papa and the little red chicken and cut them out. Instruct them to use tape or glue to attach the picture of Papa to one side of the plate and the little red chicken to the other. (Some children may prefer to draw their own characters directly onto the plate.) Then have them attach the plate to a craft stick to make a handle. Now invite children to hold up one side of the paper plate and have Papa tell a story and then, at the right moment, turn the puppet around and “out jumps the little red chicken” to interrupt it!

This activity reinforces narrative skills.

Tiny Little Fly

You Can’t Catch Me
To act out the story of Tiny Little Fly, divide children into equal groups if possible, with each group representing one of the animals in the story: Elephant, Hippo, Tiger, and Fly. Have each group cut out the corresponding picture from the “You Can’t Catch Me” reproducible, color it in, and tape a craft stick to the back. Then read the book aloud while each group acts out the story as directed below.

ELEPHANT: Tramp! (stomp feet)
Crush! (squeeze both hands into fists)
Tramp! (stomp feet)

HIPPO: Roll! (circle forearms around each other)
Squash! (clap hands together)
Roll! (circle forearms around each other)

TIGER: Swoop! (curve hands into scoops and make swooping movement)
Snatch! (rapidly open and close hand as if catching a fly)
Swoop! (curve hands into scoops and make swooping movement)

FLY: But off flies the fly! (flap arms as if flying)
Winks one eye. (wink)
Bye! (wave good-bye)

This activity fosters rhythm, movement, phonological awareness, and creativity.

My, Oh My Maze
After reading the story, pass out the “My, Oh My” maze. Ask children to help the fly find its way through the maze by spelling out F-L-Y.

This activity helps build letter knowledge.
A Bedtime for Bear

Brave Bear, Frightened Mouse

Big
Quiet
Night
Brave
Shout
Light

Frightened
Day
Loud
Whisper
Dark
Little
A Bedtime for Bear

Good Night, Bear

Things I do before I go to bed:

1. _________________________________________

2. _________________________________________

3. _________________________________________

4. _________________________________________

5. _________________________________________

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Brontorina

Helping Hearts

I will help by __________
_____________________

I will pick up toys and books.

I will give someone sad a hug.

I will help wipe up spills.

Illustration copyright © 2010 by Randy Cecil
My dream is ________________________________
Once there was a little red chicken who put her Papa to bed. She read him a hundred stories, and this is what she said:
Tiny Little Fly

You Can’t Catch Me

Illustrations copyright © 2010 by Kevin Waldron

Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit  FALL 2010
CANDLEWICK PRESS  www.candlewick.com
Tiny Little Fly

You Can’t Catch Me
Tiny Little Fly

My, Oh My Maze

Help the fly through the maze by spelling his name: F-L-Y.
Help Your Child Get Ready to Read

Narrative Skills
Tell stories together, encourage pretend play, and let your child be a storyteller.

Letter Knowledge
Help your child identify the first letter in his or her name and find it in books, on street signs, and on package labels.

Print Awareness
Help your child discover how to hold a book and turn the pages.

Vocabulary
Teach your child the specific names for things, such as vegetables in the grocery store.

Print Motivation
Find books that speak to your child's interests, and share them often.

Phonological Awareness
Sing songs, play games, and share rhymes to help your child play with the smaller sounds in words.

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