Tips for Sharing Picture Books with Young Children

Dr. Pat Feehan

Types of Picture Books

• Good stories with text and illustration
• Mood or concept books
• Participation books

Text and Illustration Books

• These books tell a good story through the use of text and illustrations that depict aspects of the text.
• Some examples are:
  - Boomer Goes to School (Sept.)
  - Trevor's Wiggly-Wobbly Tooth (Dec.)
  - Where the Wild Things Are (Apr.)

Mood or concept books

• Mood books convey a mood, such as happiness, sadness, loss, or empathy.
• Concept books teach about a concrete idea like numbers or counting, opposites, seasons, types of apples, etc.
• Some examples are:
  - Wild Child-Oct. (Seasons)
  - A Story for Bear-Nov. (Books/Reading)
  - The Hickory Chair-Feb. (Loss/Rememberance)

Participation books

• Participation books invite the listener to clap along with the text, repeat an often repeated phrase in the story, sing along, or make sound effects.
• Some examples are:
  - The Napping House (Jan.)
  - Seals on the Bus

Do I need to include all 3 types of books in each reading?

• Try to include all three types during your reading.
• It allows for a diversity of style, tone, substance, and mood.
How many books do I read each visit?

- If you make the time and effort to visit, you'll want to make the trip worthwhile for you and your listeners.
- Plan to share more than one book or possibly include poetry, fingerplays, rhymes, jokes, songs, etc.

Reading with Rachel Book of the Month List

- Each month, the committee that chooses the book of the month selects alternative or accompanying books for the primary selection.
- All of the selected books fit the chosen theme. An example of a theme is: Poetry.
- These titles are viewable at: http://www.readingwithrachel.org

Storytime Fillers

- If you have a particularly long story, it might be more appropriate to fill the remainder of your storytime with a fingerplay, poetry, action rhyme, song, or riddle.
- Such breaks in the storytime help to get the wiggles out of your listeners and keep their attention from wandering too far.

Fingerplay Resources

- Fingerplays are a big hit with ages 3-7.
- Check out the following sites for some great examples:
  - Fingerplays Index Page
  - Fingerplays
  - The Official Home of the Mother Goose Society

Poetry

- Some of the books on the Reading with Rachel list include poetry anthologies.
- March 2003's theme is Poetry, but the recommended poetry books may be used anytime.
- A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein and The New Kid on the Block by Jack Prelutsky contain many poems that can be used throughout your book sharing time.
- Check out the following websites for some fun kid friendly poetry:
  - Giggle Poetry - children's poetry by Meadowbrook Press. Lists of funny poems, poetry contests, and more

Action Rhymes

- The Eensy Weensy Spider is an example of an action rhyme.
- Some great action rhyme websites:
  - EFL Playhouse
  - Words to Action Rhymes
**Songs and Music**

- Music of all types is usually a big hit with elementary school children.
- Maurice Sendak is the featured author in April, 2003. His books *Alligators All Around: An Alphabet* and *Chicken Soup with Rice* are both featured in the musical Really Rosie. It might be fun to play songs from the soundtrack.
- You can sing, play music from tape or CD, or play an instrument.
- Try out this nifty kids' songs website: [Sing Along Songs from NIEHS](http://niehs.nih.gov/kids/)

**Riddle and Joke Resources**

- [NIEHS Kids' Page](http://niehs.nih.gov/kids/)
- [Have Fun-Kids' Riddles](http://niehs.nih.gov/kids/)

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**Why are Picture Books so Important?**

- Sharing picture books is one of the most important learning experiences for all young children.
- One of the most important connections between literacy/literature and the child is a caring and experienced adult who will actively participate with the child in exploring this world of language and pictures.

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**Rachel's Readers and Emergent Literacy**

You, as a Rachel's Reader are helping to create opportunities for listening, viewing, thinking, and language development, which are all part of a young child’s emergent literacy.

Have Fun!

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