

READ LIFE | BOOKSHELF

Family Literacy Resource Guide: Exploring with Story Plot

Collections

New Beginnings 2.0

Celebrate Reading 2.0

Inspirational Stories 2.0

Family and Community Connections 2.0

The following activities and resources were selected to support family literacy engagement. In addition to these resources, each book in the ReadLife Bookshelf digital collection has three short engagement activities to support learning and playing together.

Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities

- ◆ Explore the books by clicking on the book titles in the tables below.
- ◆ Notice that the books in these collections provide text across a span of reading levels for adults and include books that are engaging for children and families to read together.
- ◆ Access the short, guided activities for each book that offer suggestions for both instructors and families. You may access the activities by clicking on the book titles in the table below. The activities are attached to each book.
- ◆ Allow learners and families individual time to access the application and explore the collection and guided activities.
 - Use this link <https://booksmart.worldreader.org/library-code> to access ReadLife Bookshelf. Readers are then asked to enter a library code. The ReadLife Bookshelf library code is **BAFB**. The first “bookshelf” (row) has the title *ReadLife Bookshelf – Family Reading Collection*. Readers enter the code once per device. Check for app updates periodically as new features are added.
 - Share the QR code on page 8 for easy access when using a phone or tablet.
- ◆ Readers will be prompted to create an account and profile after they read three books. Click [here](#) to watch a video on how to create a profile in BookSmart – the application that powers ReadLife Bookshelf.
 - For more detailed instructions, click [here](#). You can share this slide deck with readers and families for an easy set up.
- ◆ If using the reading collections for the first time, model how the age and language filters work in the application, and how to locate the search function, so books can be easily found.

- ◆ Utilize the print-ready family engagement activity sheets featured at the end of this guide for learners who are parents or caregivers. They are tailored to these collections and are easy to print and share!
- ◆ Use these collections and guide to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners and their families.
- ◆ Guides for past collections may be found on our [ReadLife Bookshelf Resource Page](#).

ReadLife Bookshelf Collections

New Beginnings 2.0 – September Collection

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i><u>The Bus For Us / Nuestro Autobús</u></i>	Suzanne Bloom	310
<i><u>My British Penpal</u></i>	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	610-800
<i><u>Mi amiga por correspondencia en Reino Unido</u></i>	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	660
<i><u>El árbol de la bellota dorada</u></i>	Jocelyn Argueta	660
<i><u>The Golden Acorn Tree</u></i>	Jocelyn Argueta	790
<i><u>When Julia Danced Bomba / Cuando Julia bailaba bomba</u></i>	Raquel M. Ortiz	820
Engaging Books for Adults		
<i><u>Algo nuevo, algo pegado</u></i>	Rebecca Field	460
<i><u>News for You: Un trasplante une a dos deportistas profesionales</u></i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	460
<i><u>News for You: Transplant Connects Two Pro Athletes</u></i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	520
<i><u>Something New, Something Glued</u></i>	Rebecca Field	660

Celebrate Reading 2.0 – October Collection

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<u><i>A House for Mouse</i></u>	Michele Fry	210-400
<u><i>Una casa para Ratón</i></u>	Michele Fry	210-400
<u><i>Lara the Yellow Ladybird</i></u>	Martha Evans	410-600
<u><i>Lara, la mariquita amarilla</i></u>	Martha Evans	410-600
<u><i>Courage: The Heart of Night</i></u>	Diana Ferraro	410-600
<u><i>The Milo & Jazz Mysteries: The Case of the Stinky Socks</i></u>	Lewis B. Montgomery	470
Engaging Books for Adults		
<u><i>A Park for All</i></u>	Brenda Wolfenbarger	410-600
<u><i>Un parque para todos</i></u>	Brenda Wolfenbarger	410-600
<u><i>News for You: Las estrellas desaparecen más rápido de la vista humana</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<u><i>News for You: Stars Fading Faster From Human Sight</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	800

Inspirational Stories 2.0 – November Collection

Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<u><i>George Lucas: Movie Magic</i></u>	Peter Rees	410-600
<u><i>Serena Williams: Game, Set, and Match</i></u>	Alan Trussell-Cullen	420-800
<u><i>Art for All</i></u>	Olivia Wood	610-800
<u><i>Arte para todos</i></u>	Olivia Wood	610-800
<u><i>Crossing Bok Chitto</i></u>	Tim Tingle	640

<u><i>Blast Off!: How Mary Sherman Morgan Fueled America into Space</i></u>	Suzanne Slade	690
Engaging Books for Adults		
<u><i>Mr. Reed Lives for One More Day</i></u>	Michelle Garcia	410-600
<u><i>Mr. Reed Lives for a Day</i></u>	Michelle Garcia	610-800
<u><i>News for You: Europe's Space Agency Welcomes First Parastronaut</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<u><i>News for You: La agencia especial de Europa da la bienvenida al primer parastronauta</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800

Family and Community Connections 2.0 – December Collection

Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<u><i>A Circle of Friends</i></u>	Giora Carmi	N/A
<u><i>Un día con mis tías / A Day with My Aunts</i></u>	Anilú Bernardo	400-590E/600-690Sp
<u><i>These Are the People in Your Neighborhood</i></u>	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	410-600
<u><i>Between Night and Day</i></u>	Sean Julian	410-600
<u><i>Quinito's Neighborhood / El Vecindario de Quinito</i></u>	Ina Cumpiano	500
<u><i>Be a Bridge</i></u>	Irene Latham, Charles Waters	610
Engaging Books for Adults		
<u><i>Paul and Gabriella Go To Seville</i></u>	Olivia Wood	410-600
<u><i>Paul y Gabriella visitan Sevilla</i></u>	Olivia Wood	410-600
<u><i>News for You: Soldier Helps Other Wounded Troops Heal</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<u><i>News for You: Un soldado ayuda a sanar a otros soldados heridos</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800

These books connect to the themes in this guide. Look for them at your local library!

- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
- *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson
- *Bros* by Carole Boston Weatherford
- *Butterfly on the Wind* by Adam Pottle
- *First Ladies Make History* by Anita McBride and Giovanna McBride
- *Green Green: A Community Gardening Story* by Marie Lamba and Baldev Lamba
- *I Loved You First* by Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush
- *I Wish for You* by David Wax
- *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle
- *Look Where We Live! A First Book of Community Building* by Scot Ritchie
- *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson* by Katherine Johnson
- *The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons* by Natascha Biebow
- *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires
- *The Stars Beneath our Feet* by David Barclay Moore

➔ Do you support adult learners who are parents or caregivers **and** building their own literacy skills? Explore these texts and activities with them.

Expanded Engagement: *Something New, Something Glued*

Consider the following resources for [Something New, Something Glued](#). As learners explore these resources, they will make connections to themselves and the world around them through the story's plot.

- Support learners in their understanding of plot structure in short stories with [this resource](#) from ReadWriteThink.
- Encourage learners to write their own stories both individually, and collaboratively, using [this guide](#). Learners will focus on plot element and work together on plot summaries to create an original story.
- [Read the Word, Read the World](#) is a resource from [Facing History & Ourselves](#) that supports educators in leading learners through a story analysis to determine how an author is able to bring all the key elements of a story together.

Expanded Engagement: *A Park for All*

Consider the following resources for adult learners and families as they read [*A Park for All*](#). Encourage readers to focus on what makes the plot engaging and keeps the reader wanting to turn the page!

- Support learners in building their understanding of elements that create a story structure through this [engaging video](#) from Kahn Academy.
- Ask learners to work collaboratively or individually to create their own plot diagrams using [storyboards](#). Storyboards can be created physically or digitally.
- Learners and families alike will have a great time learning about plot structure and story elements through Pixar Shorts. [Finding Nemo](#) is explained in this review of story structure. Plot Diagram is explained in the Pixar Short, [Finding Mike's Car](#).
- Families can work together to create their own stories through storytelling, pretend play, and conversation. Consider using [Puppet Power](#) to support families in creative storytelling with fun plots!

Family Engagement

The family reading engagement activities on the next pages may be shared directly with adult learners and their families, so they can explore these themes and books together. The pages are ready to print and share!

- The activity sheets explore *plot* within stories and support at-home reading.
 - The first activity sheet is a “before, during, and after reading” template.
 - Encourage parents to choose a book to read with their child. They can use these questions and prompts to support conversations about the book and characters within the book.
 - The second activity sheet is targeted to support reading skill development. The activities also promote building excitement to read a book and to learn about the sequence of the story along with other story elements.
 - For both activity sheets, consider pairing an adult learner text with a children’s text. Think about the type of conversations that might be shared by the parent and child exploring the same theme with an emphasis on setting.



Family Reading Time

Dear Families,

Family reading time is fun! Choose a book to read together. Use *before, during, and after reading* questions to help your child make connections between the book and themselves and even to other parts of their life. The following are some examples:

□ Before Reading

Look at the front cover with your child. Explore the pictures and text, and ask them:

- Does this book remind you of anything?
- What do we already know about _____?
- What do you think is going to happen in the story? Why?

The plot of a story is the order of events that happen in the story. The plot makes up the beginning, middle, and end of a story.

□ During Reading

- If you were in this book, what do you think you would be hearing? Seeing? Tasting? Smelling? Feeling?
- Which part of the story is the most exciting? Why?
- What is the main problem of the story?

□ After Reading

- Tell me about the story in your own words.
 - How did the problem get solved?
 - What would you like to ask the author (or characters) of the book?
 - What did you like most about the story? Why?
 - Do you think it was a good ending? What would you have changed?
- ◆ Did you read a book from the **ReadLife Bookshelf** collection? You will notice activities at the bottom of the screen (under the book). Explore these activities with your child.
 - ◆ Use this link <https://booksmart.worldreader.org/library-code> or scan the QR code below to keep reading in ReadLife Bookshelf. You will be asked if you have a library code. Enter the code **BAFB**. You can now start reading anytime and anywhere!



- ◆ Keep exploring with books – look for these books at your local library.
 - *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
 - *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson
 - *Bros* by Carole Boston Weatherford
 - *Butterfly on the Wind* by Adam Pottle
 - *First Ladies Make History* by Anita McBride and Giovanna McBride
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 - *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle
 - *Look Where We Live! A First Book of Community Building* by Scot Ritchie
 - *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson* by Katherine Johnson
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Exploring Plot in Books

Dear Families,

Choose a book to read together. Talk about the order of events (plot) in the book and try one of these activities or all of them.

➔ The plot is the order of events that happen in a story. The plot makes up the beginning, middle, and end of a story.

- **Write, Draw, and Talk:**

- Ask your child to write or draw pictures about their day. Have them think about the beginning, middle, and end of the day. Then, talk about the different parts of their day:
 - What was their favorite part? Why was it their favorite part of the day?
 - Were there any parts of their day that were challenging? What was hard about that part of the day? Talk about what they might do next time to make it easier.
- Ask your child to create a plan for the weekend:
 - What do they want to do on the weekend? Ask them to use details to help plan a fun weekend!
 - Encourage them to use words like “first,” “then,” “next,” and “finally.”

- **Go:** Head to your local library for a story time and to choose favorite books to take home and read together. Does your child have a favorite type of book? Why do you think it is their favorite type of book? Ask them and share your favorite type of book!

- **Make:** Think about some of your favorite stories – either ones you have read in books or stories you have made up together.
 - What were some of your favorite *parts of the story*? Take turns talking, writing, or drawing about these favorite parts.
 - Then, put all these different parts together to tell a new story. This story might be funny, silly, or exciting in a new way!

- **Play:** Act out scenes (different parts) from your favorite books or movies. Take turns guessing which character and scene your family member is acting out.