

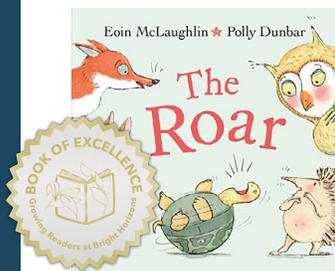
Growing Readers Review



Books of Excellence books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.

Books of Excellence

The Roar



Preschool

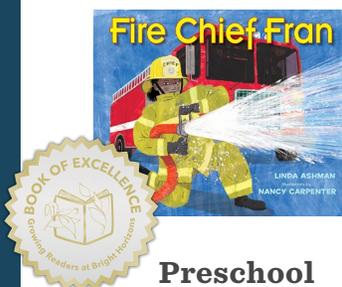
Written by Eoin McLaughlin; Illustrated by Polly Dunbar

Tortoise is stuck and all he can do is be frustrated. Hedgehog is determined to help, but what will he do when he can't help Tortoise with his big feelings? Follow the animals as they navigate helping their friend Tortoise in this gentle story about empathy and friendship.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Practice mindful moments.** Find a quiet place to practice mindful breathing or a few simple yoga poses. Building this practice into your child's life allows them to feel confident and brings feelings of calmness.
- ▶ **Act it out.** Take on different roles and imitate the actions in the story (careful with the fall). Be silly, add props, and be flexible to change up the script to help children better understand the story.

Fire Chief Fran



Preschool

Written by Linda Ashman; Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

In this small-town story, Fire Chief Fran is ready to serve the community. From fighting fires to tending injuries, discover all the ways firefighters help keep people safe in this rhyming, lively book. Peek at the back matter at the end of the book for intriguing information about fire equipment, firefighter training, and much more.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Explore different community helpers.** Notice the other transportation vehicles that appear in the book – mail van, tow truck, etc. Discuss what other helpers you notice in your neighborhood and what ways they help.
- ▶ **Visit a fire station.** Families visit fire stations year-round. Take time to stop by your local fire station to say 'hello' or get a tour. Show your appreciation with a handmade thank you card or drawing!

We believe that books have the power to build empathy in children, introducing them to new perspectives and ideas. Through stories, children come to understand others' hopes, dreams, joys, and sorrows. We're committed to offering diverse stories and voices to our readers.

Reading News

What is a Caldecott Medal?

The Caldecott Medal, characterized by its illustration on a gold coin, is named after illustrator Randolph Caldecott. The Association for Library Service for Children annually awards this medal to American children's book artists with the most distinguished American picture book published in the previous year.

Although the Caldecott Medal is reserved for artists who are citizens or reside in the United States, Randolph Caldecott was an English illustrator in the 19th century. His work was influential for its ability to convey humor and show a sense of movement within the illustrations of a story. One of his works featured in the book *The Diverting Story of John Gilpin* is currently the image on the Caldecott seal and medal.



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!

This month's video features the book *The Roar* by Eoin McLaughlin. Join Teacher Nate as he explores the feelings of the characters through theatrical storytelling. Take on a role and bring the story to life.

[Watch the video here!](#)

Storytelling/Reading Tips

Ask questions! As you read aloud with your child, pause and ask questions. Questions are a great way to learn more about how your child sees the world and learns. For younger children, start with simple questions such as, "Where is the firefighter going?" For an older child, you might ask more complex questions like, "What do you think helped Tortoise the most? What helps you when you're feeling upset?"

Older children can develop empathy and admiration for the characters they encounter in books. When reading books, especially ones similar to *The Roar*, nurture their perspective-taking skills by having them consider each of the character's feelings. For example, "How do you think Fox felt when Tortoise didn't accept his stinky shoe?" "How do you think Hedgehog felt when Tortoise didn't want to accept his hug?" It might surprise you what your child will notice in a story or illustrations.

*Other High-quality Books
We Recommend*

Visit the Growing Readers website to see a list of other great books we recommend checking out!

Point your smart phone camera at the code to link to the Growing Readers website for more book recommendations.

