

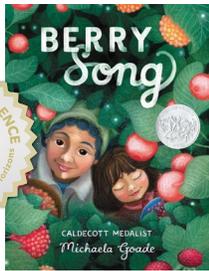
Growing Readers Review



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.

Book of Excellence

Berry Song



Written and Illustrated by Michaela Goade

"Berry Song" by Michaela Goade celebrates the kinship between family, the community, and the land they inhabit. Vivid illustrations take the reader on a journey through Earth's beautiful wonders and bountiful harvest.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Connect to the Tlingit language.** As you read, connect the Tlingit berry names to the images on each page or to the index at the end of the book.
- ▶ **Cook up a treat.** Try a recipe and make a treat to enjoy for your story time using one of your locally grown berries.
- ▶ **Explore similes and metaphors.** After your first read, pay attention to the similes and metaphors throughout the book, e.g., "like a beating drum" or "glowing like little jewels." Watch for these literary elements and think of a few on your own.

Preschool/K Prep ▶

Book of Excellence

How to Say Hello to a Worm



Written and Illustrated by Kari Percival

A beautiful story of children's sprouting curiosity about the outdoors and the creatures who live there. Through repetition and teamwork, a group of friends tends to their growing garden.

Extend the Learning

- ▶ **Plant your own garden.** Flip through the vibrant pages as you identify each growing fruit and vegetable. Pick a favorite to plant at home. Take a peek at the gardening tips at the end of the book.
- ▶ **Explore life cycles.** Become an entomologist as you discuss life cycle changes with your child. Observe and draw plant or insect life changes.

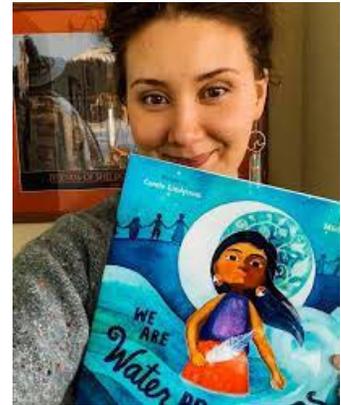
Infant & Toddler

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

Michaela Goade grew up on the Tlingit lands in Southeast Alaska. Her imagination and love for the arts lead her to pursue a career as an illustrator. Her vibrant art honors the various indigenous tribes of Alaska. In her latest work, “Berry Song,” Goade uses whimsical watercolor paintings to capture the connectedness between people and nature and share memories of her beloved grandmother.

Her other notable works include “Encounter” and “We Are Water Protectors,” a Ralph Caldecott Medal award winner. In this book, Goade’s mystical illustrations draw attention to environmental stewardship. **She is the first Native American to win the Caldecott Medal for best children’s picture book.**



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 “How to Say Hello to a Worm” by Kari Percival. Join Teacher Nate as he uses his senses to explore the natural world. Grab your gardening tools and get ready to plant.

[Watch the video here!](#)

Storytelling/Reading Tips

“This book, again? We’ve read this book 25 times already.” Have you noticed children enjoy hearing their favorite stories more than once? Think about a first-time experience, you are in awe trying to capture everything happening, in this case – the images, story, and lively characters in a book. Children are fully engrossed in observations.

Repetition is important for young children.

With each reading, children gain an opportunity to revisit the colorful images and learn new vocabulary words. As you read, point out new or familiar words. Ask your child to predict what is going to happen next. Through multiple reads, children begin to anticipate the next step, a great practice to strengthen their memory!

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.

