

Growing Readers Review



Books of Excellence titles 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

Mine!



Preschool-
Young School-
Age

Written by Candace Fleming; Illustrated by Eric Rohmann

In "Mine!" by Candace Fleming, a group of forest animals, including Mouse, Hare, Fox, Deer, and Bear, all covet a single red apple hanging at the top of a tall tree. As each animal eagerly anticipates claiming the apple for themselves, the wind eventually causes it to fall. The story concludes with a surprising and heartwarming lesson about sharing. Rohmann uses a combination of stained paper and relief printmaking to bring the forest animals and their antics to life.

Activities

- ▶ **Reflect on sharing.** Think about times when you or your child had to share. Do you share meals for dinner or perhaps take turns on the slide at the park? Discuss how it feels to share and how someone might feel when others do not share.
- ▶ **Act it out!** Assign story characters and add props or puppets for children to reenact the story. Take turns being different characters.

Baby's Black
and White
Contrast
Book



Infant

Written and Illustrated by Tabitha Paige

Paige delivers a delightful and captivating book designed to stimulate a baby's developing vision. Each page features hand-drawn, lifelike images of various animals. Its unique accordion-format allows it to stand upright, making it both engaging and functional for tummy time.

Activities

- ▶ **Tummy time.** During your baby's first year, tummy time is crucial for their motor and sensory development. Place the accordion-style book on the floor alongside your baby. Placing the book a few inches away encourages your baby to lift their head, neck, and arms.
- ▶ **Add a new element.** After a few reads, consider adding a mirror or taking the book outside to enhance the visual experience. Hold the book in front of a mirror while you and your child flip through the images together.
- ▶ **Name it.** During story time, take time to build your child's vocabulary by naming each animal, the body parts, and the differences and similarities. "That's the animal's tail. Let's see which other animal has a long tail like the zebra."

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

International Literacy Day

September 8th is International Literacy Day! Literacy is the ability to read and write, the fundamental elements for future learning, knowledge, and skill-building. Our society champions reading, but globally literacy rates are at 86%. As individuals, we can positively impact literacy rates by volunteering in our communities, donating books, and reading to others.

Children's joy of reading starts with you! Encourage your child's literacy and their love for books by offering their favorite stories around your home. During the weekend, have story time during breakfast or let your child flip through a book while waiting for their food. Keep books around your home, keep a few in the car, or take some on your commute. With your older child, share your favorite childhood book or story. Plan a day to visit the local library together or create a cozy reading corner at home filled with soft pillows, a puppet, or plushy.

Adults can set a good example by showing your children you are a reader too. Read magazines, newspapers, and books in front of your children. This type of modeling will be powerful as children age and can read independently. They'll understand how they can incorporate reading into their daily lives even as other activities demand their attention.

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!

If you enjoyed the sharing hijinks in the book "Mine!" be sure to check out "Big Truck Little Island" by Chris Van Dusen. Join Teacher Nate as he shares this fun tale of problem solving, teamwork, and community — inspired by a true story that happened in Maine.

[Watch the video here!](#)

Storytelling/Reading Tips

Introducing the book

Often, we start flipping the pages of a story, eager to hear and see what will happen. The next time you select a book, take a few moments with your child to introduce the book. Show the cover and introduce the title, author, and illustrator. Describe the author's and illustrator's roles — one writes the words of the story and the other draws the images.

For infants and toddlers, allow them to grasp the book, exploring the textures, hardcover, and weight of the book. The sensory experience can often create interest and curiosity even before the story.

With older children, ask them what they think will happen in the book and suggest things your child can look or listen for during the story. You can ask, "What do you think this book is about and why?" or "Where do you think the story takes place?"

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

