



The 2X2 Committee's charge is to produce a list of 20 recommended books for children, age two to grade two.

Dylan the Villain

K.G. Campbell

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Dylan's parents think that he's the best at everything, but when he gets to school, he finds himself in competition with Addison Van Malice. Has your child ever not been the best in their class at something? Ask him/her how it feels to not be the best at something.

Activity: Create your own villain! What is your villain's scary name? Draw a picture of your villain. Write his or her scary name on the paper.

Activity: The book ends with a cliffhanger. What happens next in the story? Write and illustrate the rest of the story.

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The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game

Nancy Churnin and Jez Tuya

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: How did William change the way baseball was played? Re-read the book and notice all the times that William chose to continue, even when things were hard.

Activity: Go outside and play catch with a parent or friend. Invent a few signals of your own for different kinds of throws.

Activity: Read a book or watch a video on American Sign Language and learn how to say a few words.

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It Came in the Mail

Ben Clanton

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Look through the pictures of all the items that came in the mail for Liam. Who would you mail the items to if they came to your mailbox? Who would get the dragon? Who would you mail the pickles to? Why?

Activity: Gather paper and pencil and write a letter to a friend. Ask them to write back. Tell them about books you enjoy and recommend.

Activity: Talk about items you have seen in your mailbox after reading the story. Do you get mostly letters? Junk mail? Packages? Make a chart of all the different items you receive in the mail in a week.

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Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea

Ben Clanton

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: This book is a graphic novel, which is a type of book that uses both words and pictures to tell a story. Think about what you learn from just the words. Then think about what you learn from just the pictures. How do the words and pictures work together to tell the story?

Activity: Make a "Spy on a Narwhal Porthole" out of paper plates. <http://tinyurl.com/hyd9dwz>

Activity: Create a jellyfish in a bottle out of a plastic bag and a water bottle. Talk about buoyancy with your child (the jellyfish will always rise to the top of the bottle because of the air bubble in the body). <http://tinyurl.com/hsq4qp9>

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There's a Bear on My Chair

Ross Collins

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Mouse does not like Bear in his chair and he tries many things to get him to move but nothing works. What words could Mouse use instead?

Activity: Re-read the book and listen for rhyming words. Point to objects in the book and see what words you can come up with that rhyme.

Activity: Extend the story and think of funny ways that Bear could try to get Mouse off of his bed.

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Blocks

Irene Dickson

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Sharing is hard! Talk about sharing to take it from an abstract concept to a practical guide. Address potential fears such as not getting a turn, or fear of not getting your belongings back. Use the story as a concrete example of how sharing can look.

Activity: Open the book to the back endpapers. Recreate some of the block creations!

Activity: : Cut out construction paper shapes and create your own block tower. This can also be expanded as a color or shape (or both!) sorting activity.

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Horrible Bear!

Ame Dyckman and Zachariah Ohora

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: The little girl gets very angry at the bear for breaking her kite. What does she do to calm down her anger? What can you do to calm down when you get angry? How do you feel when you say you're sorry to someone?

Activity: Make your own kite like the little girl's. There are lots of instructions online to make diamond kites out of plastic bags and wooden dowels. Try this one: <http://tinyurl.com/hfb4j5w> Go find some wind, and test out your kite!

Activity: Read Wolfie the Bunny by the same author and illustrator team. Do you recognize anything from Wolfie the Bunny in the pictures of Horrible Bear?

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La Madre Goose: Nursery Rhymes for Los Niños

Susan Middleton Elya and Juana Martinez-Neal

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: How many of these rhymes do you know? Can you say one of the rhymes you know to a friend?

Activity: Using orange construction paper, make a "calabaza" (pumpkin) and turn it into a "casa" (house) for fairies.

Activity: Let's play "loteria" (bingo) by making it out of the words that we find throughout the book in Spanish. Have fun!

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Alan's Big Scary Teeth

Jarvis

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Why were all the animals afraid of Alan? How did Alan feel when everyone laughed at him? Is it possible for someone to change?

Activity: Make your own big scary teeth like Alan's! Fold a paper plate in half, and cut triangles into the edge of the plate to make teeth. Bend the teeth down, then hold your paper plate in one hand and open and close the plate to make those teeth chomp!

Activity: Draw different animals trying to put on Alan's big scary teeth.

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Fabulous Frogs

Martin Jenkins and Tim Hopgood

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: The author says that his favorite frog is the ones he sees in his backyard pond. Which frog in the book is your favorite and why?

Activity: Join the Texas Amphibian Watch and become a frog spotter. Collect your data and send it off to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help with this valuable scientific work.

Activity: Walk around a local pond and search for frogs. Watch it in its natural habitat and compare it to the frogs found in the book.

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123 Dream

Kim Krans

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Sound out the numbers and accompanying illustrations (eg, 4 foxes or 10 trees). Discuss the sound the beginning of each word makes. Think of additional words that start with the same sound.

Activity: Take time to pour over the hidden pictures (listed at the end of the book). Do these hidden images share the same or different beginning sounds?

Activity: Take a nature walk and create your own nature counting book! Look for pebbles, blades of grass, sticks, feathers, pinecones etc. and then count them together. The visual representation helps children develop an understanding of the connection between number words/symbols and their actual numerical value.

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Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug

Evan Kuhlman and Chuck Groenink

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Amelia and Hank have an unlikely friendship. Talk about navigating differences with other kids to develop common interests.

Activity: Go outside and search for pill bugs! Hint: They love to live under rocks - so turn over a few and see what you find! What other bugs do you find?

Activity: Amelia and Hank have an adventure using their imagination. Spread your wings and fly outside to have an exciting adventure, too!

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I Will Not Eat You

Adam Lehrhaupt and Scott Magoon

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Theodore has a hard time making friends. How does he end up making friends with the boy? How can you make friends with someone new?

Activity: Open the book flat with the cover facing up. Do you notice some creatures from the story hiding in the illustrations of the dust jacket?

Activity: Dress up like the boy in your best adventuring costume found from bits around your house. Imagine Theodore is hiding in your house somewhere just waiting for a game of hide and seek.

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The Grumpy Pets

Kristine Lombardi

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Have you felt grumpy before? What makes you grumpy? Why do you think it is important for Billy to find a pet like him?

Activity: Using different materials, like newspapers, magazines, stickers create a collage of two pets; a happy pet and a sad pet.

Activity: Draw your favorite pet and give it a name.

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School's First Day of School

Adam Rex and Christian Robinson

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Talk to your child about what you remember from your first day of school. How is it the same or different from what their first day of school may be like? How is it the same or different from the school's first day in the story?

Activity: Look at the pictures in the story and notice emotions on faces. Notice how students are feeling on different pages and look to see if the school's "face" changes during the book.

Activity: Draw your own picture of a school on it's first day of school. Give your school a name and include things you see in your neighborhood.

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Ocean Animals from Head to Tail

Stacey Roderick and Kwanchai Moriya

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Were you able to guess the names of all of the ocean animals before you turned the pages? Name some of the animals you did guess and the ones you could not guess.

Activity: Choose one of your favorite ocean animals in the book and find a nonfiction book about that animal. Draw a picture of the animal and list one thing you learned about your ocean animal from each book.

Activity: Make a sea turtle craft using a paper plate, and construction and tissue paper. Look here for more "Under the Sea" crafts: <https://www.pinterest.com/explore/under-the-sea-crafts/>

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Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion

Alex Smith

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: This book is a fractured fairy tale based on the fairy tale *Little Red Riding Hood*. How is this story the same? How is it different?

Activity: Name another favorite fairy tale. Find a fractured version of the fairy tale, or tell or write your own. Add pictures for your story.

Activity: Make your own lion mask using a paper plate. See <http://learncreateandlove.com/lion-mask-craft>. Now read *Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion* again with someone and act out your part as the Lion using your mask.

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Is That Wise, Pig?

Jan Thomas

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: How did Mouse and Cow help Pig make good choices? Why were Pig's choices good choices at the end?

Activity: Use a paper plate and cut pictures out of an old magazine of 10 ingredients that you would put in your favorite soup.

Activity: On a piece of paper write the numbers 1 to 5; make lines to divide the numbers and make pictures of silly things you would add in your soup according to the number.

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Duck, Duck, Porcupine!

Salina Yoon

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: Talk about how the white speech bubbles show who is speaking in the story. Have your child predict what words are written in each bubble on a few of the pages as you read.

Activity: Have a picnic for a meal or snack time. Go outside and eat on a blanket as you talk about what you see, hear, and smell. Talk about how eating outside is different and how it is the same as eating at a dining table.

Activity: Make a list of items for your own imaginary camping trip. Name as many items as you can.

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A Unicorn Named Sparkle

Amy Young

Parent Child Activity:

Discussion Point: What did Lucy wish for and what did she get in this story? Have you ever wanted or wished for something but got something else instead? What was it? Were you mad about it at first then grow to appreciate it, like Lucy did for Sparkle?

Activity: Find a book about goats and another one about a unicorn. Draw a picture of each and show how a unicorn is different from a goat.

Activity: Draw a picture of an imaginary pet you would like to have someday. Don't forget to write it's name!

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