



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

What If...

Samantha Berger and Mike Curato

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Discuss what would happen if you had no more colors, paint, paper, or any artistic supplies? How and what could you create?

Activity: Learn how to make different shadow puppets. Gather your family and friends and create stories using the shadow puppets.

Activity: Create origami art. Origami can be made using special origami paper, or you can even reuse recycled paper. .

Visit our website txla.org/groups/2x2 for more information.



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Truck Full of Ducks

Ross Burach

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Have you ever been lost when you are going someplace? How have you found the way to your destination? Examples: turn around, Google Maps, GPS, paper map.

Activity: Draw a map that leads the ducks to all the places the truck driver attempted to drop them off at or visited. Don't forget to include the Fox's house!

Activity: Act out the story with a Readers Theatre! Make masks for ducks, dog, alien, pirate. Have props like fake food, cardboard mailing box, and toilet paper. Kids can act out the book while a reader narrates the story.

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Can I Be Your Dog?

Troy Cummings

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Homeless pets can't write letters; they need caring people to help them find a home. How could you help a homeless pet?

Activity: Discuss how Arfy uses persuasive writing to try to convince people to adopt him. Have kids pretend they are dogs. Have them write letters asking to be a family's dog, and why they would make a good pet. Then, have them write their address on an envelope.

Activity: Have the kids think about what happens after Arfy goes home with the mail carrier. Have them draw a picture and/or write a letter about what happens after Arfy goes to his new home.

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The Rabbit Listened

Cori Doerrfeld

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Empathy is being able to understand and share the feelings of another person. If someone you knew was upset, how could you better understand their feelings?

Activity: Get a variety of different shoes. Tell the kids a short description of the person who might be wearing each shoe, such as, "This is a baby's shoe. A baby is hungry but can't use words yet to tell anyone." Have them respond to "How would you feel if you were in their shoes? How could you help them?". Have the kids then trace their shoe on paper, and write or draw how they are feeling inside the shoe outline. Discuss the phrase, "walking in someone else's shoes."

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How Are You? / ¿Cómo estás?

Angela Dominguez

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: As you read the story see if your child can figure out which animal is speaking in Spanish. Discuss with them why the giraffes might be using two languages. Why might that be important when talking to someone new?

Activity: Repeat some of the Spanish words from the story. Have your child act out the words.

Activity: Download and print the matching worksheets. Note: there are two variations of the handout to accommodate different age levels. <https://tinyurl.com/y9d5bqr6>

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Crunch, The Shy Dinosaur

Cirocco Dunlap and Greg Pizzoli

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Explain that Crunch is very shy and you need your child's help to get him to come out of hiding and say hello to them. Emphasize that it's very important to follow directions to help Crunch.

Activity: Have kids draw a picture of their favorite dinosaur. Have them write a sentence describing attributes of their dinosaur. Is it shy, friendly, loud, etc.? Kids can name their dinosaur as well.

Activity: Draw free hand or use a dinosaur die-cut in bright colored paper so kids can make a stick puppet that acts shy like Crunch! Have kids add details and use google eyes or sticker eyes .

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Shapes

Jacques Duquennoy

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Zack keeps changing colors as the story progresses, but Zoe doesn't. Why do you think this keeps happening?

Activity: Cut out a bunch of shapes and have kids make objects out of the shapes. If you have multiple kids, have them work in pairs to make objects together using shapes.

Activity: Go on a shape scavenger hunt! Have kids look for objects that are circles, squares, or triangles.

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Misunderstood Shark

Ame Dyckman and Scott Magoon

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What does it mean to be misunderstood? Do you think Shark was really misunderstood? Why or why not?

Activity: Read a non-fiction book about sharks. How is it the same as Misunderstood Shark? How is it different?

Activity: Make a big mouth shark toy out of paper and markers. One second the fish is there, the next, the poor thing is gone! Get the printable: <https://tinyurl.com/y9kmuhcj>

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Stegotherosaurus

Bridget Heos and T.L. McBeth

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Stegothesaurus did not feel like he fit in with his siblings. What causes someone to feel they are not part of the group and what can you do to make everyone feel welcome? Why did Stegothesaurus feel good when he met Allothesaurus?

Activity: Ask your child what they think a thesaurus is? Share this video: <https://tinyurl.com/q5ep67m> Check out a thesaurus from the library to show your child.

Activity: Have your child create their own Stegothesaurus using a paper plate and other craft items. Give them a simple word to write on back (happy, sad, look, mad). Then look in the thesaurus and find that word. Have them write 3 synonyms and 3 antonyms on back underneath the original word.

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Russell Wrestles the Relatives

Cindy Chambers Johnson and Daniel Duncan

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Russell doesn't want to hug his relatives. What should you do if you don't want to hug someone?

Activity: Create and name your own signature handshake or hug. Find out your wrestling name from the author's website: <https://tinyurl.com/y9h4wovc>

Activity: Try Sock Wrestling <https://tinyurl.com/yeytvnu3> Clear a space and make sure everyone is wearing two socks, no shoes. The aim of the game is to get the other people's socks off without losing your own! Don't forget to set safety rules before you start!

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What Do They Do with All That Poo?

Jane Kurtz and Allison Black

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Discuss what would happen if we just left the animal poo in the zoo. Research ways your local zoo disposes of its poo.

Activity: Research ways to compost plant material at your home or school. Create a composting area/garden in your school, home or community.

Activity: Read this fascinating article about a community that is totally self sustaining. <https://tinyurl.com/y8vtdre7> Discuss how this model community might be the wave of the future.

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The Little Red Fort

Brenda Maier and Sonia Sanchez

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Have you ever wanted your own fort? What would you make it out of? Who could you ask for help? What would make a good foundation to insure the fort will stand by itself?

Activity: Gather available materials and make your own fort. You can use chairs, couches and blankets for an indoor fort, or trees, branches and wood for outdoors.

Activity: Create your own structure. Using marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti or toothpicks, create a structure. How high can you build? How wide?

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Alma and How She Got Her Name

Juana Martinez-Neal

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Alma has a long name! What is unique about your child's name? Where did the name come from?

Activity: Help your child make a name plate. You can use foam letter stickers on a paper plate or felt or foam shape. Check out <https://tinyurl.com/y9sxogcu> for ideas.

Activity: Help your child connect with your family's history by making a family tree. Check out <https://tinyurl.com/ycs2iglv>

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The Itchy Book

LeUyen Pham

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Some rules are for safety but others are more like guidelines to establish an organized environment. This means they are flexible and one can make choices. What are some examples of guidelines you can think of?

Activity: Do some dinosaur movement activities with songs from <https://tinyurl.com/yc846ncx>

Activity: Using LEGO, build your own dinosaur village. Children get to pick which dinosaur they wish to create. Add trees and other nature items to give it a realistic look. Have child practice writing the name of their dinosaur.

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Festival of Colors

Kabir and Surishtha Sehgal and Vashti Harrison

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Discuss different cultures and religions with children. Invite someone to share aspects of their religion.

Activity: Gather a group of friends together and throw colored powders on each other to celebrate new beginnings.

Activity: Take a nature walk to look at flowers. What other flowers could be dried to create different powders? What plants could also be used to create a yellow powder? A red powder?

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Teddy's Favorite Toy

Christian Trimmer and Madeline Valentine

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What are some ways Teddy uses his imagination with Bren-Da? Do you have a favorite toy that inspires you to use your imagination? How do you play with it?

Activity: Teddy created some imaginative fashion for Bren-Da. Search online for "paper doll template" and print one out. Create your doll's head and design a creative outfit for it.

Activity: Use wood peg clothespins, fabric scraps, yarn, pipe cleaners, etc. to make your own superhero doll. Alternative- Reuse an old doll and turn it into an fierce superhero!

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Joan Procter, *Dragon Doctor*
Patricia Valdez and Felicita Sala

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Name different kinds of reptiles. Joan Procter was a herpetologist, a scientist who studies reptiles. Would you like to be a herpetologist some day? Why or why not?

Activity: Joan designed a Reptile House for the creatures she loved at the London Zoo. Use a shoe box and other materials to make a Reptile House of your own. Think about what reptiles would need in their habitat.

Activity: Explore the National Geographic Kids website to learn more about reptiles: <https://tinyurl.com/yakfjd5l>

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Shake the Tree!

Chiara Vignocchi and Silvia Borando

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: After reading, ask kids what patterns they see in the plot of the story.

Activity: Make a simple flannel board with tree, leaves, trunk and animals. Sharpies can be used to add in details. Have your child retell the story.

Activity: Before reading to toddlers and or pre-schoolers, tell kids you need help reading the story. Practice the phrases, "shake,shake, shake" and "I'm going to gobble you up".

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A Place for Pluto
Stef Wade and Melanie Demmer

Parent Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Discuss with your child(ren) whether or not Pluto should have been demoted to dwarf planet status.

Activity: Visit a planetarium and learn more about the solar system.

Activity: Visit the publisher's (Capstone Press) website for a coloring page, maze, and other ideas: <https://tinyurl.com/y6wk5y6r>

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People Don't Bite People
Lisa Wheeler and Molly Idle

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Discussion Point: **Children often bite others including their parents and caregivers for a variety of reasons. Discuss why a child might bite another person and then think about what options a child could use instead of biting.**

Activity: Learn the song: Biting Hurts by Jack Hartman. Song can be found online on the Kids Music Channel.

Activity: Create your own page for the book following the text format. Illustrate their verse using the four panel format used in the book.

It's good to bite a _____
It's good to bite a _____
It's bad to bite _____
He/she's not a _____:

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