



The 2x2 Committee's charge is to produce a list of 20 recommended books for children age two to grade two.

A Polar Bear In the Snow

Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Where do you think the polar bear is headed at the end of the story? What might he do? Why are polar bears able to survive in the cold arctic weather?

Activity: Use the illustrator's technique of torn paper artwork and create your own polar bears or other animals. Then, write a story about what is happening in your artwork.

Activity: Ice Fishing - Help polar bear find some food to eat. Use simple fishing rods (dowel rods with strings attached and a magnet at the end of the string) to fish for fish (print and cut out each fish from the link below. Attach a paper clip to each fish). Have younger children tell you what letter they caught. For older children tell them which letter to catch.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ILb5nTTG1aZVCnxkIf7JOzEla15pQmUt/view?usp=sharing>

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Boxitects

Kim Smith

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Why do you think Meg and Simone were more successful when they worked together?

Activity: Make a boat out of cardboard using these instructions:

<http://boxitects.kimillustration.com/downloads/BoxitectsBoat.pdf>

Activity: Make colorful spaghetti by dyeing it and create some cool art:

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/spaghetti-art-kids/>

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Every Night is Pizza Night

J. Kenji Lopez-Alt and Gianna Ruggiero

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What is your favorite food? Would you want to eat it every night? Out of all the foods listed in the story, which one would you like to try? Can there be more than one best food?

Activity: Research another country. Then try one of these kid-friendly recipes from around the world.

<https://www.bonvoyagewithkids.com/kid-friendly-recipes-around-the-world/>

Activity: Take a poll! Ask your family and friends what they think the best food is. Do you agree with any of them?

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Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots

Michael Rex

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Do you know the difference between a **fact** and an **opinion**? Why are understanding **facts** and **opinions** important? Have you ever had a different **opinion** than someone you know? Do you like **facts** or **opinions** better?

Activity: Build your own robot out of cardboard boxes and tubes, covered in aluminum foil. Compare your robot with a friend or family member's. What is a **fact** about each robot? What is an **opinion** about the robots?

Activity: The robots in our book eat chocolate and pistachio ice cream -- try making your own!

www.inthekidskitchen.com/ice-cream-in-a-bag/ Add mix-ins or toppings based on your **opinion** of best flavor(s)!

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Federico and the Wolf

Rebecca J. Gomez and Elisa Chavarri

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What are some of the differences between this book and the traditional Little Red Riding Hood story? Which parts did you like better, and why?

Activity: Draw a venn diagram, and label one circle, "Little Red Riding Hood", the other circle "Federico and the Wolf", and where the circles overlap "similarities". Fill in the circles with elements of the stories that are unique and similar.

Activity: Salsa Making: Make your own salsa using the recipe in the back of the book, or make your own recipe. Share your salsa with friends and family with a salsa taste test.

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First Day Critter Jitters

Jory John and Liz Climo

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: On the first day of school, the animals all have a different case of the first day jitters. What are the jitters? Have you ever had them? What did you do to overcome them?

Activity: Draw a line down the center of a sheet of paper. Draw or write different worries on one side. On the other half, draw strengths and talents that can help you or others overcome the worries.

Activity: Create a Buddy Bookmark! Draw a picture of the first day's critters helping one another on a strip of paper (about 2 in. x 7in.) Take it with you on your first day of school to help your jitters! Make extras to share with new friends who might have the jitters, too.

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Hike

Pete Oswald

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: In the book the father and child plant a tree to help the environment. What can you and your family do to help the environment?

Activity: Get outside! Walk your neighborhood, go to a garden or park near your house, or take a drive to a national park and take a hike with your family or friends. Or take a virtual tour of a national park here:

<https://www.nationalparks.org/connect/blog/take-virtual-visit-national-park>

Activity: Find a way to help the environment in your area. Plant a tree, pick up litter, reduce your carbon footprint, recycle or reuse items in your home.

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I Am Every Good Thing

Derrick Barnes and Gordon C. James

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Do you know yourself? What words would you use to show how amazing you are? What's the best way to share that with others and encourage them to do the same?

Activity: Let's make some poetry. Gather a mirror, a sheet of paper and something to write with. Now using the mirror, look into your eyes and be inspired to answer these prompts: I am _____. I wonder _____. I hear _____. I see _____. I want _____. I am _____. Once you've come up with a positive representation of who you are, share it with others.

Activity: In the story, the narrator compares himself to a "coooooool breeze" through which paper airplanes glide forever. Take three sheets of paper and make different types of paper airplanes. See which design glides best. Get some inspiration here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybz8fjko>

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Louis
Tom Lichtenheld

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Why did Louis feel like he wanted to leave? What do you think the boy could have done better to make Louis feel loved? What is your favorite stuffed animal and why?

Activity: Hold a Teddy Bear Tea Party. While at the party, have children sing the Teddy Bear Song and Movement Activity - Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around.

Activity: Make a copy of the Teddy Bear Drag and Drop Activity below. Then, open the Google Slide show and have children move the correct number of teddy bears onto chairs.
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hIHnGZ2jNC70vZVUTAo3qw-e66TMpm01tFO9XFtAmEM/copy>

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Packs - Strength in Numbers
Hannah Salyer

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Like the group of animals in the book, what do you and your family or friends do better together?

Activity: Research your favorite animal. What do they call their group name? What do they do better together?

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Activity: Observe animals in your area. What do you notice about them? Do you see them working together? How are they working together?

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**See the Cat - Three Stories
About A Dog**
David LaRoche and Mike Wohnoutka

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Do you think Max and the book are having problems understanding each other? Why or why not?

Activity: Find the hidden cat in each of these pictures:
<https://www.funkidslive.com/quiz/challenge-can-find-cats-photos-harder-looks/#>

Activity: Think of something silly the book could see that it hasn't seen yet. Write and illustrate a 4th Max story.

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Shapes
Shelley Rotner and Anne Woodhull

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Why do you think the author used verbs (action words) to describe the shapes in this book? Can you think of other verbs to describe objects that are certain shapes?

Activity: On a piece of paper, draw 5 shapes, then go on a shape hunt in your house, school, or neighborhood to find shapes and record what you found on your paper.

Activity: Shape Collage: Cut out shapes found in magazines or newspapers, then make artwork by gluing the shapes onto paper. For an added challenge, group similar shapes together in your collage.

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Speak Up

Miranda Paul and Ebony Glenn

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: There are times when you may think that you are "just a kid" and can't really make a difference. However, there are many kids around the world who are speaking up and making a difference. When should you speak up and when should you be quiet and let it go? Are there ways that you can speak up without saying a word?

Activity: When you're grateful, SPEAK UP! Is there someone that made your day special or gives you a treat? Let them know how much you appreciate them by creating a thank you card for them. You can even use the printable here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6636juu>

Activity: Think about a cause that's important to you— being kind, picking up litter, treating animals well, helping others, etc. Create a sign to express your thoughts. You can even do it online: https://www.abcya.com/games/abcya_paint

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The Three Billy Goats Buenos

Susan Middleton Elya and Miguel Ordóñez

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Think of a time when you may have had a disagreement or problem with someone. What did you do to make things better for both of you? Was the issue resolved? If not, what could you have done better?

Activity: Retell this story with some props from home. Grab four different little figures to represent Uno, Dos, Tres, and the Grumpy Gigante. Now use some popsicle sticks and clothespins to build a bridge. Once you've built your bridge, go ahead and retell the story to a sibling, parent, or friend. You can get some inspiration here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3b29ush>

Activity: After reading the story go on a word hunt for rhyming words! As you reread the story, make a list of all of the rhyming word pairs. Can you see how many English and Spanish pairs there are? Could you make up a story that includes some of the rhyming word pairs?

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The Yawns Are Coming!

Christopher Eliopoulos

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Noodles and his friend couldn't outrun the yawns even with all the fun stuff on their list. Do you think you could have stayed awake all night? What are some different things you would have tried so you wouldn't fall asleep?

Activity: Make your own list of fun things to do at a sleepover. Are any of the activities on your list the same as Noodles and his friend? Are they all inside or outside activities or a mix of both?

Activity: Dress up in your favorite jammies, find a cozy spot, and read the story another time. This time though, when you hear the yawns, snores, and sleepies, act them out. Big arm stretching yawns, loud or soft snores, and curl up when the sleepies take over. Can you stay awake the whole time?

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Underground-Subway Systems

Around the World

Uijung Kim

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Which subway system in the book would you like to visit? Why?

Activity: Visit this site to print, cut, color and glue your own 3D subway train cars: <https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/subway-train-coloring-page/>

Activity: Take a virtual field trip to the NYC Subway and Children's Museum with a boy named Johny. <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=ItEapK5JuVI>

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Up on Bob

Mary Sullivan

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Have you ever had to do some hard work? What was that like? Was it worth it? Have you ever been interrupted by someone when you were working on a project? What happened?

Activity: This book doesn't have very many words, but Bob and Someone tell us a lot with their expressions! How do you think they are feeling on different pages? Try communicating without words by playing a game of charades with friends or family members.

Activity: Someone (the Cat) launches herself for a giant POUNCE on Bob when he is trying to sleep! See how far you can launch pom poms or marshmallows with a popsicle stick catapult! Add your own POUNCE sound effects. Find video directions here: <https://tinyurl.com/UpOnBob>

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What About Worms!?

Ryan T. Higgins

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: How are the worms and Tiger different? How are they the same? Who overcame their fear at the end of the story?

Activity: Observe worms by creating a Wormery. Create a series of layers using sand and dirt in a large, clear jar. End with a large layer of dirt on top & add a small amount of water so the soil is moist. Add 2-3 worms on top and allow them to burrow into the layers. Keep the jar in a cool, dark place between observations. After observing them, make sure to return them to their natural habitat.

Activity: The worms are scared of tigers until they read more about them and discover tigers aren't so scary after all. What is something you may be worried or scared about? Check out a book on the subject and learn something new about it!

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What Do You Do If You Work At The Zoo?

Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What do you think it's like to work at the zoo? Would you like to be a zookeeper? What might be the hardest part? What part might be the most fun? Do you think the animals like living in the zoo?

Activity: Choose an animal mentioned in the book to research. Read the information about it in the back of the book, then search World Book Online or the National Geographic Kids website for more information to learn something new.

Activity: Make pipe cleaner animals (use Pinterest or Google Images for inspiration)! Turn empty shoe or tissue boxes into a habitat with construction paper, markers, or crayons.

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You Matter

Christian Robinson

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Have you ever told someone that they matter to you? How did you let them know? Why is it important to tell people that they matter to you?

Activity: Draw a circle, then divide the circle into pie pieces so it looks like a parachute. On each panel of the parachute, draw a picture and write a label for something that matters to you.

Activity: There are many ways to show someone that they matter to you. Think of two people who matter to you, and think of a way to show them how much they matter to you. You could write a letter, draw a picture, do something helpful for them, or come up with your own idea.

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