



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

Wonder Walkers

Micha Archer

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Answer some of the questions posed in the book: do you think rain is the day's tears? If not, I wonder what rain might be? Think about what else you find outside that isn't in the book (cactus, animals, weeds). What questions might we ask about those things if they were in the book?

Activity: Go on your own Wonder Walk! Take a walk around your neighborhood, local park, or library and wonder at what you see and notice.

Activity: Make your own cut-paper collage! Layer tissue paper and cardstock to recreate your favorite outdoor scene. Check out the "How Does She Do That?" video on the author's website and try making your own patterned paper for an extra layer of fun!

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Have You Seen Gordon?

Adam Jay Epstein

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Are there times when you want to stand out and times when you'd rather not be noticed? What are you feeling in both situations and how can you express yourself to make sure you get what you need?

Activity: Create an "I Spy" Bottle using these instructions:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2-QvV_cZ1U

Activity: Draw your own "Seek and Find" puzzle. Think of a theme (animals, shapes, food, vehicles, etc.) and fill up your paper with pictures. Then, make a list of what people will find in your puzzle and share with a friend!

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Bodies Are Cool

Tyler Feder

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Kids have a lot of questions about bodies! This is a great jumping off point to discuss how bodies are similar and different. What does your body look like? Can you find yourself represented?

Activity: Draw a self portrait and show your body in all it's beauty! Take it larger and do a body tracing as well!

Activity: Make an "All About My Body" book. Ask how many eyes do you have? How many fingers? How many noses? Draw out the answers! All bodies with all their unique variations can be celebrated.

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Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)

Carrie Finison

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Some people love hugs. Some people don't. Do you like hugs? If so, what kind of hugs do you like? If not, what other ways do you like to show you care for someone?

Activity: Create a choice board with different ways that you can show people you care for them. This can include actions like hugs, high fives, knuckle bumps, etc. Then, ask different people you know how they would like to be shown that they are cared for by you.

Activity: How many different ways can you high five? Use the page in the book "Doug is a master of high fives." for inspiration and practice using them.

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Circle Under Berry

Carter Higgins

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Compare pages in the book after you read. What changes did you notice? How else could you describe some of the pictures?

Activity: Play with shapes! Cut out the shapes mentioned in the book: squares, rectangles, circles, hearts, ovals, diamonds, and octagons out of paper. I wonder... how can they be combined into new creations? I wonder what we can add to make an animal? A building? Food?

Activity: Play with spatial relationships! Using the same shapes as before (or the reproducible illustrations provided on the author's website), rearrange the shapes in front of you. What is over? Under? Besides? In the middle? To the left? I wonder how else could we arrange the pieces? I wonder how else might we describe our picture?

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Norman Didn't Do It (Yes, He Did)

Ryan T. Higgins

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: It can be hard when a new friend (or even a new sibling) joins your group of favorite people. Talk about the emotions Norman feels - worry, jealousy, love - have you ever felt the same way? How can you deal with those feelings and act like a good friend?

Activity: Color and enjoy activity sheets provided by the publisher!
<https://books.disney.com/content/uploads/2021/03/NormanDidntDoIt-ActShts-2753-FINAL.pdf>

Activity: Learn about the lifecycle of a tree with Project Learning Tree's "A Tree's Life" Activity sheet.
https://www.plt.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/PLT_Family-Activity_A-Trees-Life.pdf

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Atticus Caticus

Sarah Maizes

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What are some things that Atticus did throughout the day? What words would you use to describe Atticus?

Activity: The author uses rhythmic text and rhyming words to tell the story. Create a poem about your pet or your favorite animal.

Activity: The illustrator created the pictures to look as if they were drawn by a young artist, using scribbles and colored pencils. Simple lines and shading make the characters come to life. Take a close look at Atticus. Can you draw and color him, to look the same way that he does in the book?

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Brains! Not Just a Zombie Snack

Stacy McAnulty

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Would you let a zombie eat any part of your brain? If so, which part would you let them eat? If not, why not?

Activity: Look at the end pages and discuss the different animals' brains. Are they big or small? Do they have lots of wrinkles or just a few? What does all that mean? Which one would a Zombie think is the tastiest?

Activity: Using your own head, point and name the different parts of your brain.

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Butterflies Are Pretty...Gross!

Rosemary Mosco

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: What new facts about butterflies did you learn from this book? Can you think of other animals that look beautiful but have some gross characteristics?

Activity: Go on a nature walk in your neighborhood or a nearby park. What insects do you see? Observe what they look like and what they are doing and write down or draw what you find.

Activity: Visit the National Wildlife Federation to find 10 more ways your family can enjoy nature at home while supporting butterfly habitats:

<https://blog.nwf.org/2020/04/10-ways-to-nature-play-at-home/>

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One-osaurus, Two-osaurus

Kim Norman

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Look at the dinosaurs pictured in the book. Count the different parts of their body i.e. claws, tails, osteoderms (aka humps), arms, legs, spots, etc.

Activity: Learn how Deaf people count to 10 with one hand by watching this video: <https://youtu.be/Qp981F9MVOE>

Activity: Play hide and seek with your family and/or friends. Count to 10 like the dinosaurs in the book. Then play Simon Says-osaur and add "osaurus" to your words.

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Chez Bob

Bob Shea

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Bob's original plan was to eat the birds after they flocked to his restaurant but in the end he became their friends. Did he make the right choice? How do you think he felt about the change of plans in the end?

Activity: Make your own unique bird's nest using recycled paper, Spanish moss, string, or other miscellaneous items in your craft supplies. Blow up a small balloon so that it easily fits in a bowl. Mix white glue with a small amount of water until it's thinned out. Dip your different materials in the mixture, squeeze out the excess, and layer on the balloon. Allow it to fully dry, then pop the balloon. Marvel at your unique nest!

Activity: Bob only has one thing on his menu: birdseed! What would you put on your menu? Create your own menu. Don't forget to add prices, draw pictures of the meals, and give your restaurant a name!

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Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite!

Ashley Spires

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Burt the Beetle may not have super powers, but he is a super friend! What qualities does Burt the Beetle have that makes him a good friend? What qualities do you have that make you a good friend?

Activity: Make a spider web in your doorway and see what sticks!

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/spider-web-halloween/>

Activity: Build your own Super Bug using this Burt the Beetle activity sheet:

https://www.kidscanpress.com/sites/default/files/products/assets/BurtTheBeetleDoesntBite_2685_activity.pdf

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My First Day

Phung Nguyen Quang and Huynh Kim Lien

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Compare and contrast your preparations for the first day of school with the main character's, An. How are your journeys alike and different? How do the physical obstacles the boy faces symbolize some of the internal challenges you may have on your first day?

Activity: The story takes place in the Mekong River Delta. Use a library database to find more information about this part of the world. Find 3 facts about the area.

Activity: Draw and label a map from where you live, to your school. Draw a path on the map to show how you would get to school.

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Not Now, Cow

Tammi Sauer

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Do you have a favorite season? Why is it your favorite season? Is it the activities you can do, the clothes you can wear, or something else?

Activity: Practice dressing for the weather. Create weather cards (Seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer—or Weather events: Rain, Snow, Sun, Wind, etc.) and have a stack of magazines available. Show children the card and have them create a collage from magazine pictures based on that card. Children can work in small groups, and each group can have a different season.

Activity: Cow likes to relax by a big tree. Have children draw 4 trees by tracing their arm and hand. Then children can decorate the trees based on each season.

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The Midnight Fair

Gideon Sterer

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: How did the animals use the fairground differently than humans usually do? How did they use the fairground in the same way as humans?

Activity: Can you tell a story without words? Staple several stacked blank pages together on one side to create a book, then draw pictures on each page that tell a story without using any text.

Activity: Go through *The Midnight Fair* and talk about what the animals might be saying in each scene if there were words.

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Mel Fell

Corey R. Tabor

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Hold the book upright, the way a book is usually oriented. Now hold the book so it opens from top to bottom, and the title is readable. I wonder how we will need to read this book? I wonder why it might look this way? Have you read any other books that have "turn-pages"?

Activity: Do an experiment to see how things fall! Try dropping some common items like a tennis ball, paper clip, and rock from different heights. Which falls the fastest or lands first? Do any of them come back up like Mel?

Activity: Try to fish like a Kingfisher! Fill a bowl, bucket, or kiddie pool with water. Use small household objects (LEGOs, pieces of craft foam, plastic silverware to float; paper clips, crayons, metal silverware to sink) as fish. Use a clothespin or tongs as your "beak" to fish the items out! Can you catch something in one try like Mel?

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Seaside Stroll

Charles Trevino

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: In Seaside Stroll, the author only uses the letter "S" to describe the Mother-Daughter adventure. Can you think of more "S" words to add to their adventure? What are they?

Activity: Go on an off-season adventure. It could be along a river or the sea in the winter or build a snowman during the summer using a recipe for fake snow. What did you do and see? Write your own story using words that start with one letter.

Activity: The author, Charles Trevino, was inspired by ASL (American Sign Language) poetry when writing this story. Learn different signs by checking out books and DVDs from your local library or visit: babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/

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Poem In My Pocket

Chris Tougas

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Poetry can be fun and silly, serious and sad, happy and energetic, or anything you want! How do you feel when you read or write poetry? What are some topics that make you feel happy? Silly?

Activity: Create your own poem with magnet poetry. Write a variety of words on small magnet strips, then mix and rhyme to create a fun poem.

Activity: Acrostic poems are a fun way to learn poetry. The first letters in each line spell out a word, and that is typically the subject of the poem. Start by selecting your word—and then have fun creating!

Books are my friends
Old ones are familiar
Or new ones are adventures
Keep reading forever

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Inside Cat

Brendan Wenzel

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Inside Cat's perspective, or way of looking at something based on what it already knows, changed once it stepped outside the front door of the house. Why do you think that is? Was everything the cat thought it saw the same or different?

Activity: Inside Cat finds many unique scenes outside its windows. Create your own window scene using craft sticks, paper, glue, and crayons or markers. Glue four craft sticks together to create a square. Glue two more in a cross shape in the middle. Cut a piece of paper into a square the same size as the stick window. Draw your view or a view you would like to imagine outside your window. Glue around the edges and place the window on top.

Activity: Wander and Wonder around your house. What do you see? Does it change when it's a different time of year? Pick a room and draw what you see. Have a friend or family member draw what they see. Is it the same or different?

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Someone Builds The Dream

Lisa Wheeler

Parent/Child Activities:

Discussion Point: Name some of the careers you see in the book? What important skills and knowledge would each professional need in order to be successful in their work?

Activity: STEM Challenge: Using straws, craft sticks, and tape, build a bridge that will hold a small toy (matchbox) car.

Activity: Make A Fold In Square Book: Cut 2 rectangle pieces of paper, both the same size. Criss-cross them and glue them together on the one square where they meet. After the glue dries, write on the inside. Close the book by closing the square upon itself.

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