



March 2018

Family Reading Fun



Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books.

-Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita of Education at Ohio State University

Aren't books a marvelous window into the world? It's truly amazing how you can learn life lessons through literacy. Through reading, you can help your child foster a love of literacy by viewing and experiencing mirrors and windows into their lives through the books they read. All children should find books they can view to see into lives different than or similar to theirs. When children are able to see themselves in books and connect with books in meaningful ways, they find joy.

Family Tips



Books are an avenue to learning about how to handle various life situations and provide a view on different experience. Every time you read a book, it should develop a reaction in you or cause you to think differently. When reading a book together as a family, consider thinking about and discussing: *What is the author trying to teach me?* Different perspectives can create great conversation.

Enjoy reading with your child and the conversation that can occur. As you read, think about how the character handles different situations. Think and talk with your child about what he/she would do in the same situation. If the character asked you for advice, what would you say or suggest they do? Did you learn something new you could try when situations or experiences like that arise? Each can be a great prompt to elicit conversation.



Book Spotlight



Many books have interesting situations that could be helpful for topics that relate to your family. A few that can help create interesting conversations are:

- *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig; This story is about a boy who feels invisible, until a new student joins the class and they find a way to shine.
- *Don't Eat Your Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins; A hilarious story that conveys a message on being kind to classmates and learning boundaries.
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson; A story of a girl who won't play with the 'new girl'. She learns the lesson of little acts of kindness along the way.
- *I Am Human* by Peter Reynolds; This is a book of empathy and compassion, encouraging children see themselves in a new and different way.

These books will support the conversations and help respond to the questions under the 'Family Tips' section. Another idea is to explore some of the Choose Your Own Adventure Series, discussing each decision along the way.

Technology Corner

Feathers and Fools by Mem Fox is a book about two flocks of birds that begin to fear each other because of differences. Search for a video of the book read aloud, then use technology as a means to conversation. As you view the book, you can pause throughout and consider discussing:

- What would you do as the character?
- Why is the character acting that way?
- After the video is complete, think: What is the author trying to teach me?
- Consider how you reacted or how the story may have changed your perspective in some way.

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