

# READ LIFE | BOOKSHELF

## Family Literacy Resource Guide: Exploring with Setting

### Collections

*Celebrate Life's Stories*

*Setting Goals 2.0*

*Celebrating Black Authors 2.0*

The following activities and resources were selected to support family literacy engagement. In addition to these resources, each book in the ReadLife Bookshelf digital collection has three short engagement activities to support learning and playing together.

### Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities

- ◆ Explore the books by clicking on the book titles in the tables below.
- ◆ Notice that the books in these collections provide text across a span of reading levels for adults and include books that are engaging for children and families to read together.
- ◆ Access the short, guided activities for each book that offer suggestions for both instructors and families. You may access the activities by clicking on the book titles in the table below. The activities are attached to each book.
- ◆ Allow learners and families individual time to access the application and explore the collection and guided activities.
  - Use this link <https://booksmart.worldreader.org/library-code> to access ReadLife Bookshelf. Readers are then asked to enter a library code. The ReadLife Bookshelf library code is **BAFB**. The first “bookshelf” (row) has the title *ReadLife Bookshelf – Family Reading Collection*. Readers enter the code once per device.
  - Share the QR code on page 8 for easy access when using a phone or tablet.
- ◆ Readers will be prompted to create an account and profile after they read three books. Click [here](#) to watch a video on how to create a profile in BookSmart – the application that powers ReadLife Bookshelf.
  - For more detailed instructions, click [here](#). You can share this slide deck with readers and families for an easy set up.
- ◆ If using the reading collections for the first time, model how the age and language filters work in the application, and how to locate the search function, so books can be easily found.

- ◆ Utilize the print-ready family engagement activity sheets featured at the end of this guide for learners who are parents or caregivers. They are tailored to these collections and are easy to print and share!
- ◆ Use these collections and guide to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners and their families.
- ◆ Guides for past collections may be found on our [ReadLife Bookshelf Resource Page](#).

### [ReadLife Bookshelf Collections](#)

#### Celebrate Life Stories – December Collection

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i><u>My Word is Peace</u></i>	Mariel Calderón Álvarez	NP
<i><u>Mi palabra es paz</u></i>	Mariel Calderón Álvarez	NP
<i><u>Fun in the Field</u></i>	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	410-600
<i><u>Jimena Pérez puede volar</u></i>	Jorge Argueta	410-600
<i><u>The Earth Gives More</u></i>	Sue Fliess	440
<i><u>Jimena Pérez Can Fly</u></i>	Jorge Argueta	680
Engaging Books for Adults		
<i><u>The Holiday Party</u></i>	Joelle Edouard	570
<i><u>News for You: Father and Daughter Bring Free RVs to Wildfire Victims Who Lost Everything</u></i>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	650
<i><u>News for You: Padre e hija llevan casas rodantes a víctimas de incendios forestales que perdieron todo</u></i>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	700
<i><u>Biddy and Dee Dee</u></i>	Elizabeth Player	725

## Setting Goals 2.0 – January Collection

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Madison y su Bicicleta</i>	Dr. Vanita Braver	460
<i>I Kick the Ball / Pateo el balón</i>	Gwendolyn Zepeda	480
<i>The Water Warrior</i>	Ervina Hasibuan	490
<i>Madison and the Two Wheeler</i>	Dr. Vanita Braver	510
<i>Stan's Olympic Plans</i>	K.L. Pickett	520
<i>What a Pro Knows: Playing to Win</i>	Christine Louise Hohlbaum	800
Engaging Books for Adults		
<i>10 Healthy Habits</i>	Mariel Calderón Álvarez	610-800
<i>10 hábitos saludables</i>	Mariel Calderón Álvarez	610-800
<i>News for You: Broken New Year's Resolutions? Blame the Brain</i>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	710
<i>News for You: ¿Propósitos de Año Nuevo no cumplidos? Culpe al cerebro</i>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	710

## Celebrating Black Authors 2.0 – February Collection

Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>My Girls &amp; Curls</i>	Layla Steele	410-600
<i>The Scoop on Inventors</i>	Mon Trice	570
<i>Be a Bridge</i>	Irene Latham, Charles Waters	610
<i>The Teachers March!: How Selma's Teachers Changed History</i>	Sandra Neil Wallace, Rich Wallace	700

<i>Sports Heroes (Black Stories Matter)</i>	J.P. Miller	860
<i>Héroes del deporte (La historia de las personas de raza negra es importante)</i>	J.P. Miller	860
<b>Engaging Books for Adults</b>		
<i>News for You: Toni Morrison Wrote the Powerful Stories of Black Americans</i>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	550
<i>News for You: Toni Morrison escribió los potentes relatos de los afroamericanos</i>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	575
<i>A True Celebration</i>	Joelle Edouard	810-1000
<i>Una verdadera celebración</i>	Joelle Edouard	810-1000

### These books connect to the themes in this guide. Look for them at your local library!

- *Hope is a Rainbow* by Hoda Kotb
- *Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey* by Magdalena and Nathaniel Newman (read this nonfiction text with *Wonder* by RJ Palacio)
- *Nothing Else But Miracles* by Kate Albus
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *The Year We Learned to Fly* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *You Are a Story* by Bob Raczka
- *Y Is For Yet: A Growth Mindset Alphabet* by Shannon Anderson

➔ Do you support adult learners who are parents or caregivers **and** building their own literacy skills? Explore these texts and activities with them.

### Expanded Engagement: *Biddy and Dee Dee*

Consider the following resources for [Biddy and Dee Dee](#). As learners explore these resources, they will make connections to themselves and the world around them. This text is also for perfect for families to explore together.

- Explore setting further using [this guide](#) from Facing History Facing Ourselves, to help learners think about how setting can impact characters in a text and themselves.

- The video, “[Story Elements for Kids: What is setting?](#)” will support a learner’s understanding of setting and provide them with some tips for at-home conversations. For an activity after watching the video, ask learners to write down the setting elements they remember from *Biddy and Dee Dee*. Families might also like to write a story about their own pet (or someone else’s) using the elements of setting they learned about in the video.

### Expanded Engagement: 10 Healthy Habits

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Consider the following resources for adult learners and families as they read [10 Healthy Habits](#) and explore a “listicle” that offers 10 ideas for staying healthy.

- The setting (environment) in which one lives can have a big impact on our actions. Have learners “[Create a Goal and Discover \(Their\) Why](#)” with this fun lesson from Facing History Facing Ourselves.
- Support learners in thinking about how to build their own healthy habits by reflecting on the setting around them using this lesson - “[Exploring the Moral Universe of Setting](#).” This lesson can also be used with *Biddy and Dee Dee* and other texts shared in this guide.
- Explore this lesson on [Staying Healthy](#) by encouraging learners to think about the elements in their environment (setting). Families are encouraged to track food and learn about the importance of healthy eating as an extension of the activities from the lesson.

### We value your feedback

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We strive to create effective, relevant, and engaging resources for practitioners and families. We have included a brief survey to capture feedback from educators and families who use the activities in this guide. Your valuable input helps us continue to improve our resources and engagement with families.

[Click here for the survey](#)

[Or Scan the QR Code](#)



**Thank you for reviewing this resource guide!**

## Family Engagement

The family reading engagement activities on the next pages may be shared directly with adult learners and their families, so they can explore these themes and books together. The pages are ready to print and share!

- The activity sheets explore *settings* within stories and support at-home reading.
  - The setting is *where* the story takes place and *when* the story takes place. It is the *environment* of the story. It can *affect* the characters in the story in different ways. Encourage readers to also think about what the setting looks like, feels like, and how it effects the story.
  - The first activity sheet is a “before, during, and after reading” template.
    - Encourage parents to choose a book to read with their child. They can use these questions and prompts to support conversations about the book and characters within the book.
  - The second activity sheet is targeted to support reading skill development. The activities also promote building excitement to read a book and to learn about the setting of the story.
  - For both activity sheets, consider pairing an adult learner text with a children’s text. Think about the type of conversations that might be shared by the parent and child exploring the same theme with an emphasis on setting.



## Family Reading Time

Dear Families,

Family reading time is fun! Choose a book to read together. Use *before, during, and after reading* questions to help your child make connections between the book and themselves and even to other parts of their life.

The following are some examples:

### □ Before Reading

Look at the front cover with your child. Explore the pictures and text, and ask them:

- Does this book remind you of anything?
- What do we already know about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Where do you think the story takes place?  
When do you think the story takes place?  
How do you know?
- How do you think the character is going to act in this setting? Why?

The setting is where the story takes place and when the story takes place. It is the environment of the story. It can affect the characters in the story in different ways.

### □ During Reading

- If you were in this book, what do you think you would be hearing? Seeing? Tasting? Smelling? Feeling?
- Which part of the story described the setting the best? Why do you think that?
- Think about where the story takes place. Have you ever been to a place like this? Would you like to go to a place like this? Why or why not?

### □ After Reading

- Tell me about the story in your own words.
- Think about the setting at the beginning of the story and the end of the story. Did it change? How? Why?
- If the setting changed, which part was your favorite? Why?
- What would you like to ask the author (or characters) of the book?
- What did you like most about the story? Why?
- Do you think it was a good ending? What would you have changed?



- ◆ Did you read a book from the **ReadLife Bookshelf** collection? You will notice activities at the bottom of the screen (under the book). Explore these activities with your child.
- ◆ Use this link <https://booksmart.worldreader.org/library-code> or scan the QR code below to keep reading in ReadLife Bookshelf. You will be asked if you have a library code. Enter the code **BAFB**. You can now start reading anytime and anywhere!



- ◆ Keep exploring with books - look for these books at your local library.
  - *Hope is a Rainbow* by Hoda Kotb
  - *Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey* by Magdalena and Nathaniel Newman (read this nonfiction text with *Wonder* by RJ Palacio)
  - *Nothing Else But Miracles* by Kate Albus
  - *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia
  - *The Year We Learned to Fly* by Jacqueline Woodson
  - *You Are a Story* by Bob Raczka
  - *Y Is For Yet: A Growth Mindset Alphabet* by Shannon Anderson



## Exploring Setting in Books

Dear Families,

Talking about settings in books can lead to interesting conversations. Choose a book to read together. Talk about the settings in the book and try one of these activities or all of them.

- ➔ The setting is where the story takes place and when the story takes place. It is the environment of the story. It can affect the characters in the story in different ways.
- **Create:** Choose a book to talk about. Draw a picture of your favorite setting(s) from the book. It may be fun to start with a general map of the setting or write the different places in the book in the middle of a piece of paper. Next, talk about the setting in the book with your child:
  - Where does the story take place?
  - What does this place look like?
  - What does this place sound like?
  - How does the character or characters feel in the different places of the story?
  - Together, add details to your piece of paper about the character's favorite setting or yours as readers. Now, have a conversation and talk about the setting and everything you noticed.
- **Word Talk:** Play a game to see who can be the most creative in describing the setting(s) in a book.
  - Take turns describing a setting in a book and guessing the story and setting (place and time). Name the book and place that is being described.
    - Use some of the words you talked about in the *Create* activity above. Can you think of serious words? Silly words? Words about what the setting looks like? Sounds like? Smells like?
- **Write:** Have fun writing your own stories about different types of places using the book you read together. See who can come up with the funniest, scariest, or overall best story among your family. Remember writing about a story can be simple – write a sentence, a paragraph, or more!
  - Write a different ending to the story.
  - Re-write a story that has the same character and events, but takes place in a different place or time.
  - Write a sequel – something that happens after the story ends – to the book.
  - Re-write a moment in the story and make a change to it that is surprising (this is called a *plot twist*)!



- **Go:** No matter where you live, you and your family can enjoy the outdoors together as you read and learn together.
  - Take a walk as a family. Tell (or write) a story about your adventures and all the places (setting) that you visit.
  - Practice writing by spelling out vocabulary words from the story. Write words in the sand using sticks or rocks. Use sidewalk chalk or write by using your finger to spell “in the air.”
  - Tell your own stories. Look at the world around you. What is happening right now? What do you see? Smell? Hear? Create a story together to share with friends or other family members.