

READ LIFE | BOOKSHELF

Family Literacy Resource Guide: Exploring with Writing

Collections

All Stories Tell a Story 2.0

Exploring With Poetry 2.0

Healthy Habits 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. Check for app updates periodically as new features are added.
 - 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](#)

[All Stories Tell a Story 2.0 – March Collection](#)

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>The Story of You</i>	Lisa Ann Scott	510
<i>Maya Angelou (Historia de las personas de raza Negra: Biografías)</i>	Izzi Howell	610-800
<i>Big Moon Tortilla</i>	Joy Cowley	620
<i>Rosa's Bus</i>	Jo S. Kittinger	710
<i>Maya Angelou (Black History Biographies)</i>	Izzi Howell	770
<i>Lin-Manuel Miranda</i>	Stephanie Gaston	790
Engaging Books for Adults		
<i>Sigue tu corazón</i>	Tiffany Jones	410-600
<i>Change of Heart</i>	Tiffany Jones	610-800
<i>News for You: Seis hombres baten un record mundial al remar a través de un pasaje antártico</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<i>News for You: Six Men Set World Record by Rowing Across Antarctic Passage</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	810-1000

Exploring with Poetry 2.0 – April Collection

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<u><i>Sidewalk Chalk: Poems of the City</i></u>	Carole Boston Weatherford	NP
<u><i>Sometimes It's Bright</i></u>	Annie Ruygt	240
<u><i>A veces es brillante</i></u>	Annie Ruygt	260
<u><i>Mi sonido favorito</i></u>	Karen G. Jordan	410-600
<u><i>Why is Nita Upside Down?</i></u>	Roxana Bouwer	410-600
<u><i>The Sound I Love Best</i></u>	Karen G. Jordan	470
Engaging Books for Adults		
<u><i>News for You: Young Poet Grabs the Spotlight</i></u>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	600
<u><i>News for You: Joven poeta capta los focos</i></u>	New Reader's Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<u><i>Road Trip</i></u>	Brenda Wolfenbarger	610-800
<u><i>Problemas en la furgoneta</i></u>	Brenda Wolfenbarger	610-800

Healthy Habits 2.0 – May Collection

Engaging Books for Children and Families		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<u><i>Brave Bora</i></u>	Edna Gicovi	410-600
<u><i>Valiente Bora</i></u>	Edna Gicovi	410-600
<u><i>Level Up / Paso de nivel</i></u>	Gwendolyn Zepeda	490
<u><i>I Care About My Body</i></u>	Liz Lennon	550
<u><i>Cuido mi cuerpo</i></u>	Liz Lennon	610-800
<u><i>A Day without Sugar / Un día sin azúcar</i></u>	Diane de Anda	810-1000

Engaging Books for Adults		
<i>News for You: Hey, Everybody: Get Up and Move</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	410-600
<i>News for You: ¡Oigan, todos! ¡A levantarse y a moverse!</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	410-600
<i>Step by Step: Meditation</i>	Mariel Calderón Álvarez	610-800
<i>Paso a paso: Meditación</i>	Mariel Calderón Álvarez	610-800

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

- *Follow Your Dreams Little One* by Vashti Harrison
- *U.S. Government (Baby's Big World)* by Julia Garstecki
- *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School* by Carlotta Walls LaNier
- *Peek-a Boo Haiku: A Little Flip Book* by Danna Smith
- *Call Us What We Carry: Poems* by Amanda Gorman
- *Hoops: A Graphic Novel* by Matt Tavares
- *Mealtime (Toddler Tools® Board Book)* by Elizabeth Verdick
- *My First 100 Food We Eat* by Wonder House Books
- *Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in Their Youth to Become Stars* by Gregory Zuckerman

➔ 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: *Road Trip*

Consider the following activities for the story *Road Trip*. As learners explore these resources, they will make connections to themselves and the world around them.

- Have fun learning about and creating your own limericks in [this lesson](#). As an added bonus, learners are encouraged to create a limerick to go with the one from the text! As an extension, try [this lesson](#) about figurative language through poetry.

- The story of *Road Trip* included references to tone (verbal and nonverbal) throughout the story, as well as in the limericks embedded in the story. Use [this lesson](#) to understand how and why authors make these stylistic choices. [This template](#) will help your learners start their limericks.
- For an extended lesson about Black cowboys, consider any (or all) of the fun activities in [this guide](#). Encourage learners to complete their own research on this important topic of American history. [This lesson](#) will help you introduce the idea of cowboys and poetry to your learners.

Expanded Engagement: Step by Step: Meditation

Consider the following resources for adult learners and families as they read [Step by Step: Meditation](#) and explore ideas for meditation.

- [Mindfulness and literacy](#) go together very well. Writing is a great way to practice mindfulness and build literacy skills. Use the strategies throughout [this presentation](#) to blend mindfulness and writing together for all learners.
- Explore the techniques of mediation and mindfulness in [this video](#). This resource supports the *Step by Step: Meditation* text and encourages conversation on how to add mindfulness strategies to daily life.
- Learners will love using the strategies listed in [this guide](#) as they explore mindfulness. These strategies will build other literacy skills such as speaking and listening to foster and promote learning for all ages and abilities.

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 *writing within stories* and support at-home reading.
 - 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 explore ideas through writing.
 - 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 writing within stories.



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 characters are going to be like in the story?
- How do you think the characters are going to act in this story? Why?

□ During Reading

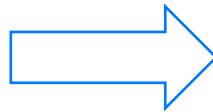
- If you were in this book, what do you think you would be hearing? Seeing? Tasting? Smelling? Feeling?
- Which part of the story described the character the best? Why do you think that?
- Think about the main character in this story. Do you know a person like them in your own life? What is similar about them? What is different?

□ After Reading

- Tell me about the story in your own words.
- Think about the character at the beginning of the story and the end of the story. Did they change? How? 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?
- What makes this story different (unique) from others that you have read?
- The tone of the story is how an author shares their feelings about a topic. Authors share tone in many different ways. The words

they choose and the way they write their sentences help the reader “feel” the tone. Authors sometimes use the actions and words of their characters to show tone.

- What was the tone of the story you read? Was it happy? Sad? How do you know? What words or sentences in the story make you think this?
- ◆ 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:
 - *Follow Your Dreams Little One* by Vashti Harrison
 - *U.S. Government (Baby's Big World)* by Julia Garstecki
 - *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School* by Carlotta Walls LaNier
 - *Peek-a Boo Haiku: A Little Flip Book* by Danna Smith
 - *Call Us What We Carry: Poems* by Amanda Gorman
 - *Hoops: A Graphic Novel* by Matt Tavares
 - *Mealtime (Toddler Tools® Board Book)* by Elizabeth Verdick
 - *My First 100 Food We Eat* by Wonder House Books
 - *Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in Their Youth to Become Stars* by Gregory Zuckerman

Exploring Writing in Books

Dear Families,

Talking about the writing in stories and choices author's make can lead to interesting conversations. Choose a book to read together. Talk about how the author told the story and try one of these activities or all of them.

➔ The tone of the story is how an author shares their feelings about a topic. Authors share tone in many different ways. The words they choose and the way they write their sentences help the reader "feel" the tone. Authors sometimes use the actions and words of their characters to show tone.

- **Create:** Read a book you have read before and pay special attention to the words in the story. Write 5-10 of your favorite words from the story on a piece of paper. Now, re-read the sentences that have these favorite words. Talk about each word:

- Why do you think the author chose that word? How does it help you understand the story? What other word could you use in the sentence that means the same thing? (Words that have similar, or the same meaning are called synonyms.)
- Have fun creating other sentences with your favorite words. They can be serious or silly!
- Create a crossword puzzle with the words. To learn more about how to create crossword puzzles at home, search online for *creating crossword puzzles with children*.



- **Write:** Take turns as a family writing *acrostic poems*. Choose a topic or favorite word from a story or show you watch together. Then, write the word vertically (up and down) on a piece of paper (see example below). Next, write your acrostic poem by using each letter from the word to share more about the topic, story, or show. For example, if your favorite season is *spring*, you might write this poem.

Sunshine

Playing

Running

Ice cream

Nature

Gardening

- **Play:** Work together as a family to create words using tiles!
 - Use word tiles or create your own! You can write the letters from the alphabet on single pieces of paper cut into squares. Mix up the word tiles or your pieces of paper and choose 5-10 letters.
 - What words can you make with your letters? How many words can you make in a minute?
 - Choose 20-30 tiles or “letter” pieces of paper. How many words can you make now?
- **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.
 - Think about the words you choose for your story and the actions of the characters. Remember, this helps the reader understand the *tone* of the story!