

Welcome!

This notebook an activity book for young readers and a resource for caregivers in supporting reading development.

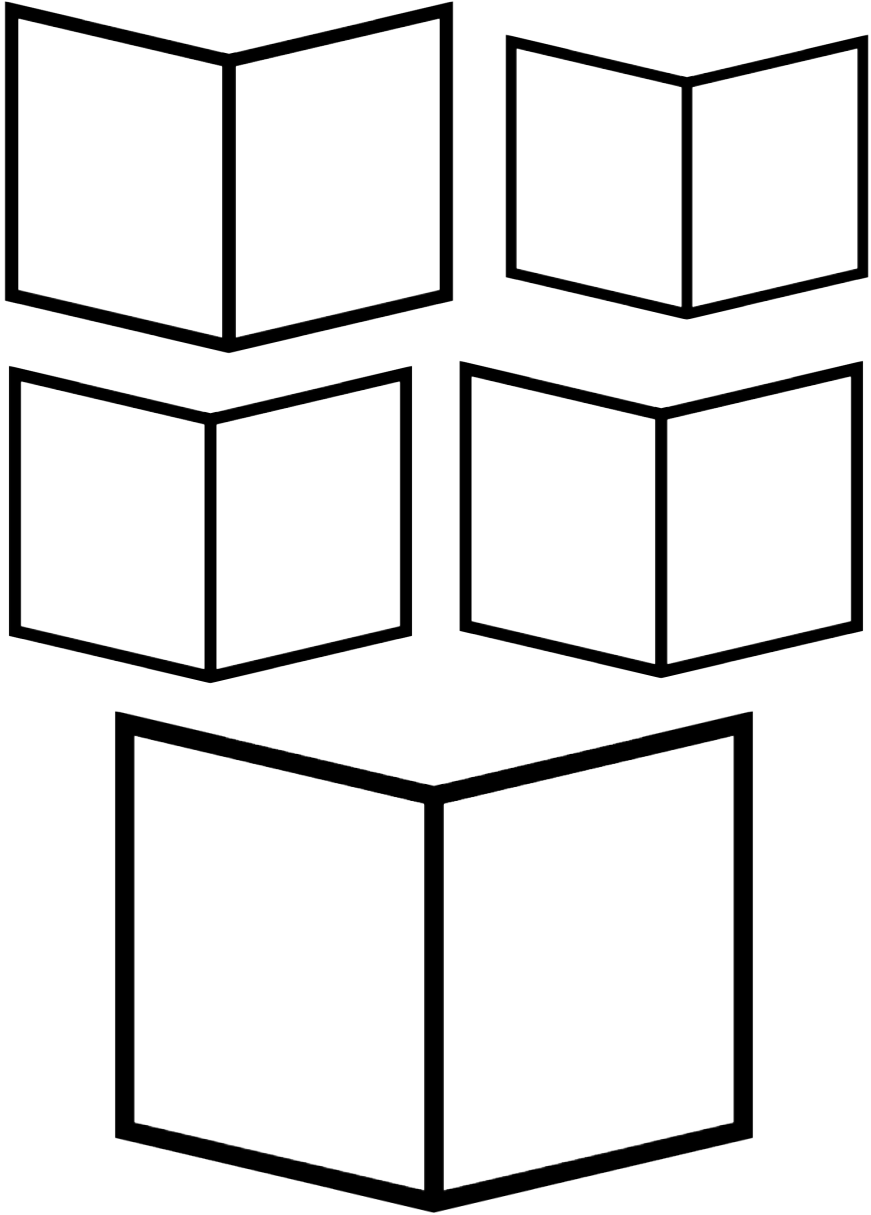
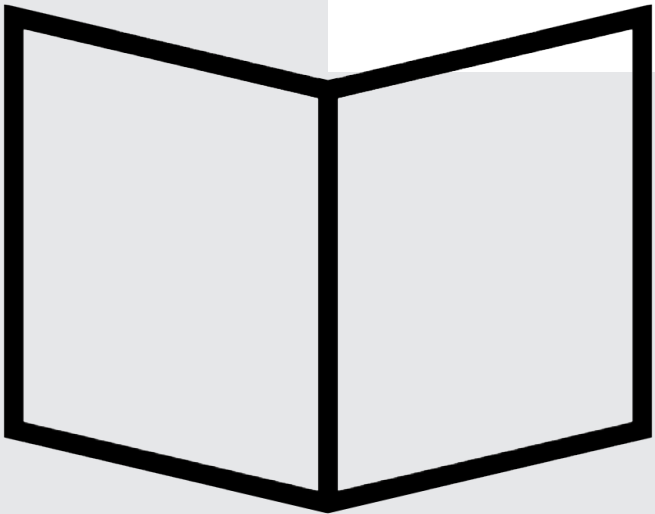
These activities encourage having fun with books while developing important skills and becoming a lifelong reader.



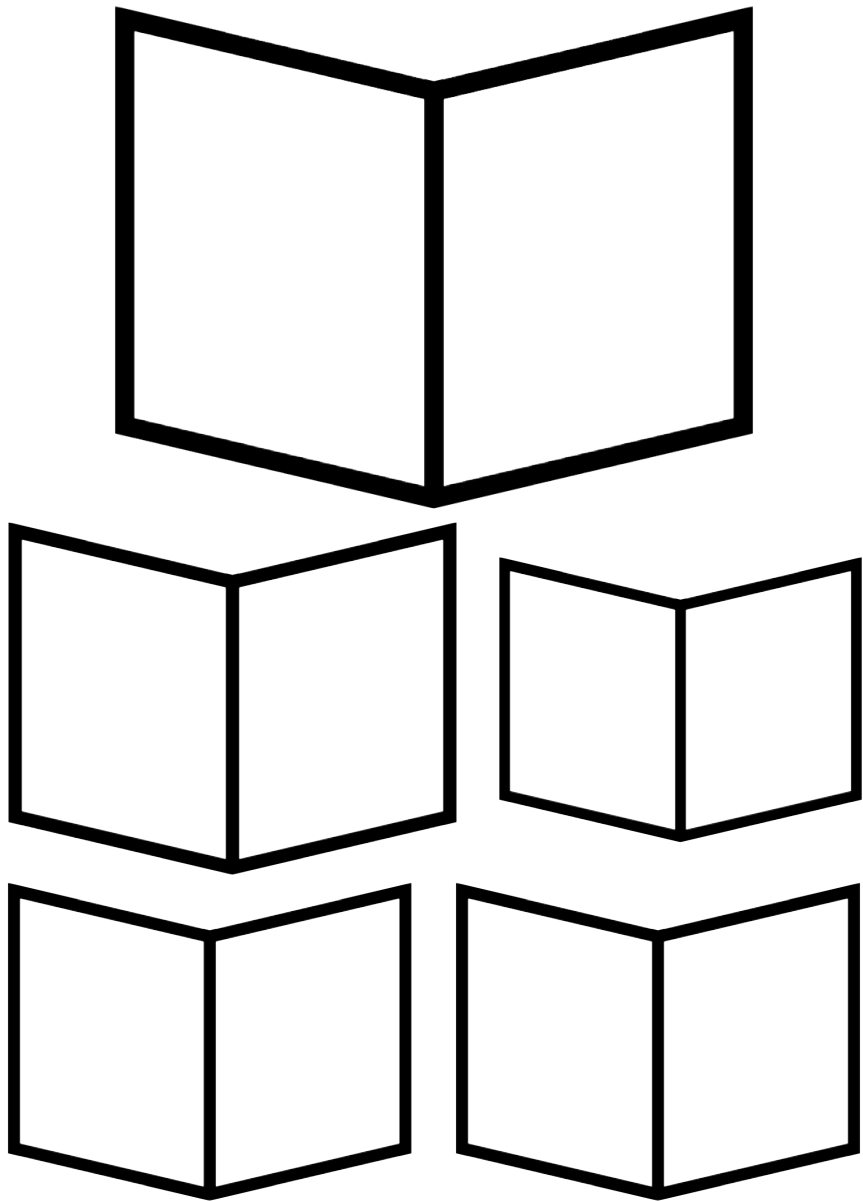
Once you and your reader finish the activities in this book, visit <http://open-books.org/readingnotebooks> to let us know what you thought and to claim a free book!



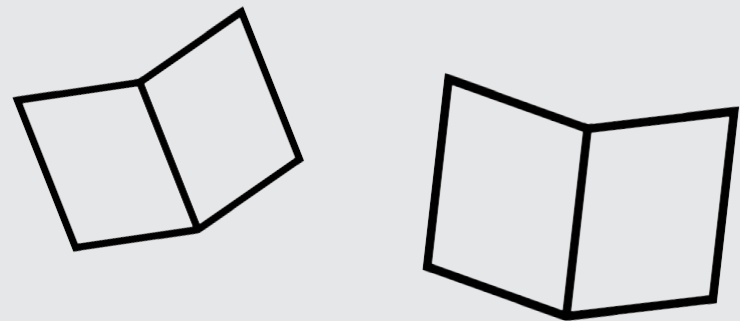
**If you could read books about anything,
what would their covers look like?**



Color Me!



Tips & Activities for Pre-Readers



Picture Walk

A picture walk is a great way to talk with your reader about a story while making connections to their lives.

Picture walks encourage young readers to connect books to their previous knowledge.

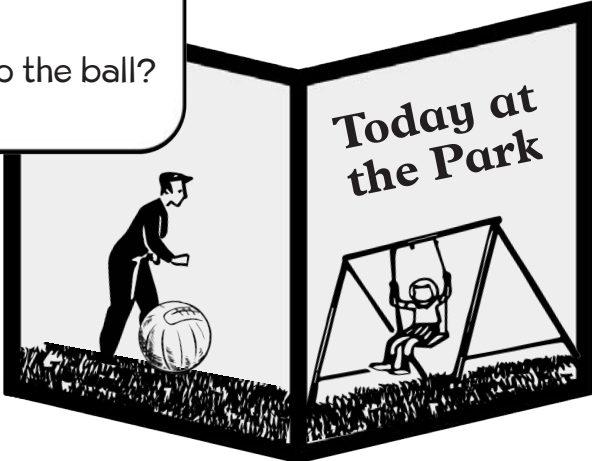
1

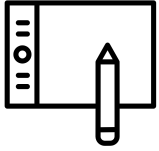
On this cover, I see lots of things happening at the park.

Someone is having fun on the swings. Someone else is playing with a ball.

Can you point to the ball?

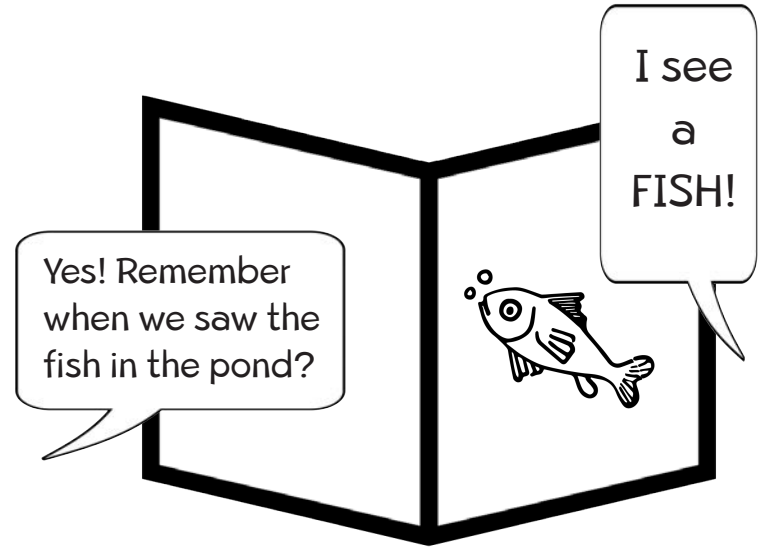
Look at the book's cover together and describe what you see.





**Start your own stories
or journal entries here.**

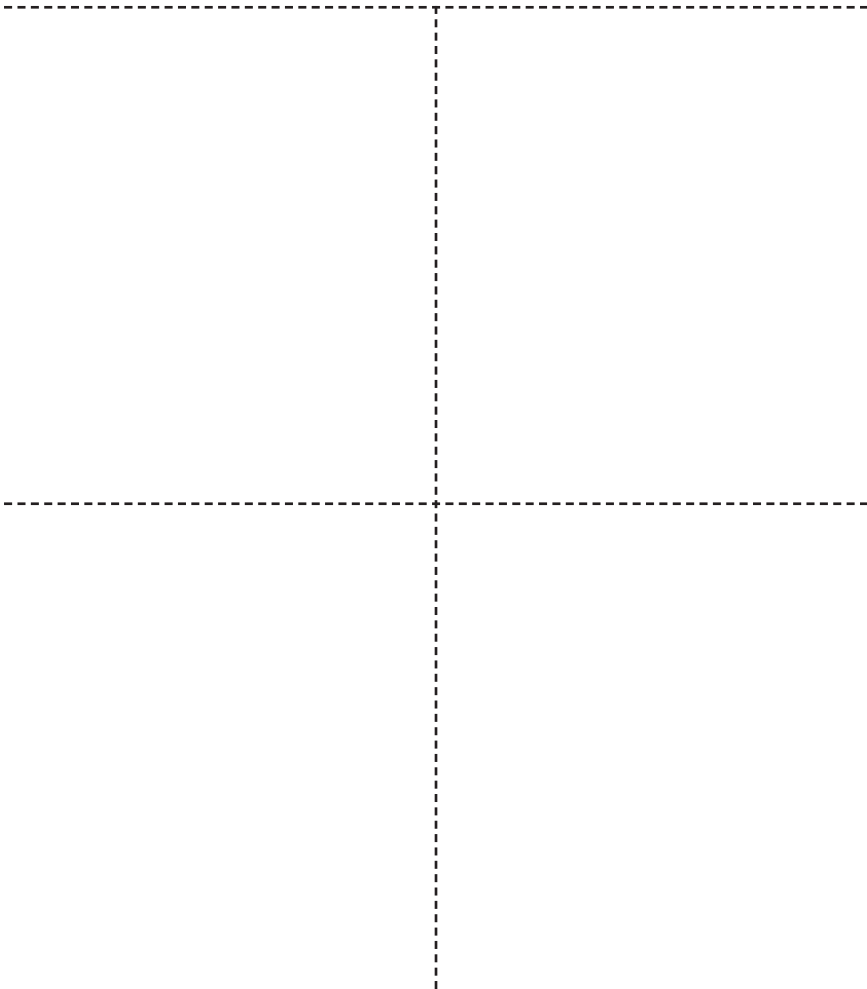
2 Have the reader open to the first page of the story and describe what is happening on this page. Encourage them to point at what you are describing. Use this as an opportunity to connect real life events.



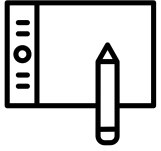
You can also work on letter names and sounds this way. (“What letter does fish start with? F! And what sound does F make? F-f-f-fish!”)

Use this method for any book without even reading the words! Get your reader familiar with discussing the pictures and sounds of a book.

Draw some pictures to describe together!



A series of 15 horizontal solid lines, stacked vertically, providing space for writing or drawing.



**Start your own stories
or journal entries here.**

Horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 20 solid lines.

Two large dashed-line boxes for writing, each consisting of a vertical line on the right and a horizontal line at the top.

Connecting Letters & Sounds

I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound **mmmm**. What do you think it is?

M

Turn it into a game!

What letter is that?

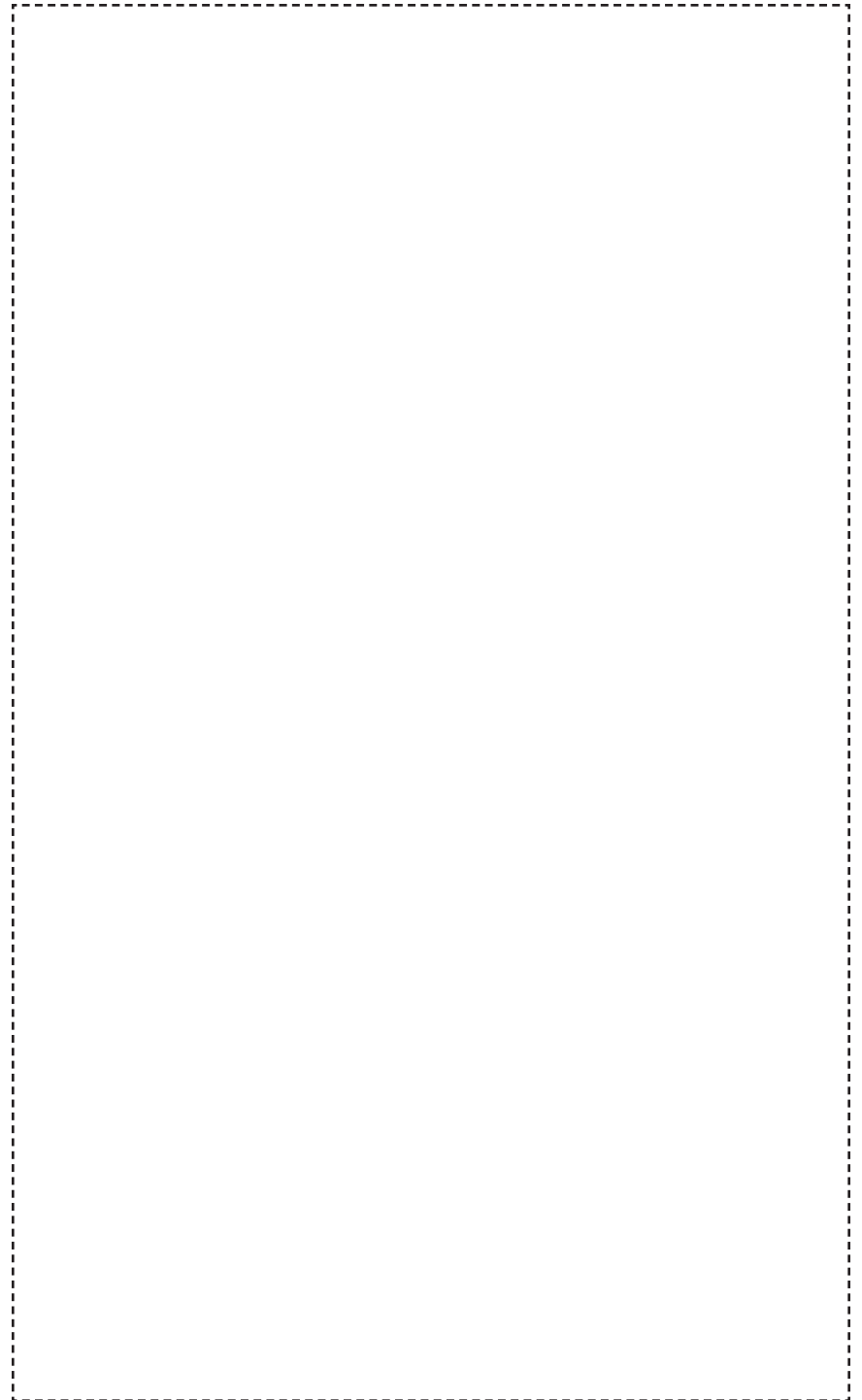
What sound does that letter make?

The F makes a **f-f-f-Fun** sound!

F

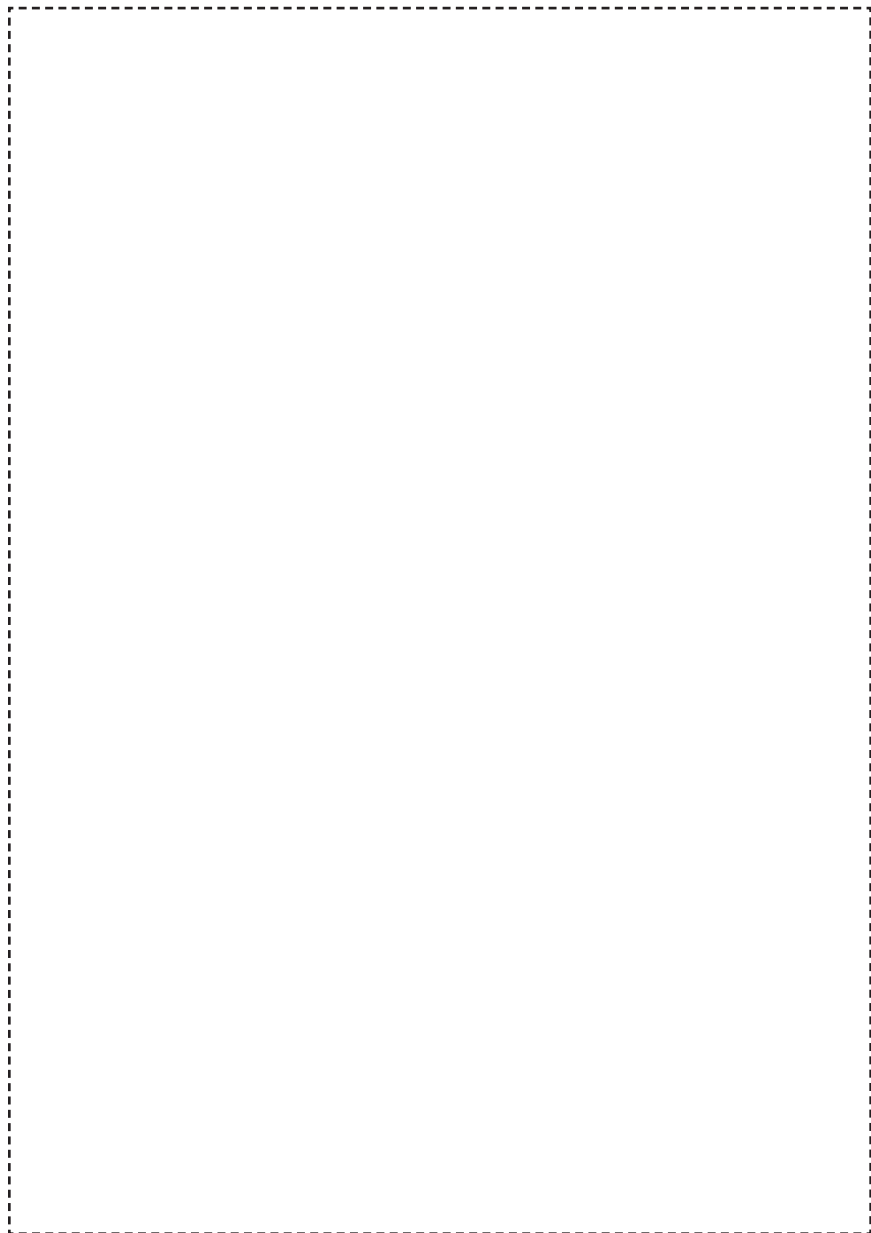


Point at specific letters and talk about them.



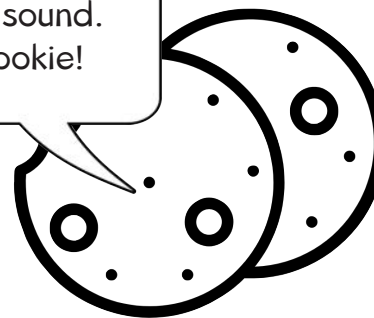


Use these pages for drawings inspired by your reading.



Help your reader learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make.

Cookies! Yum!
Cookie starts with
the /k/ sound.
C-c-c-cookie!



Find ways to
incorporate
letter sounds
in your daily
activities.

“Want to
dance?”
asked the dog.

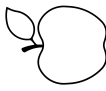




“Yes!” cheered
the children.

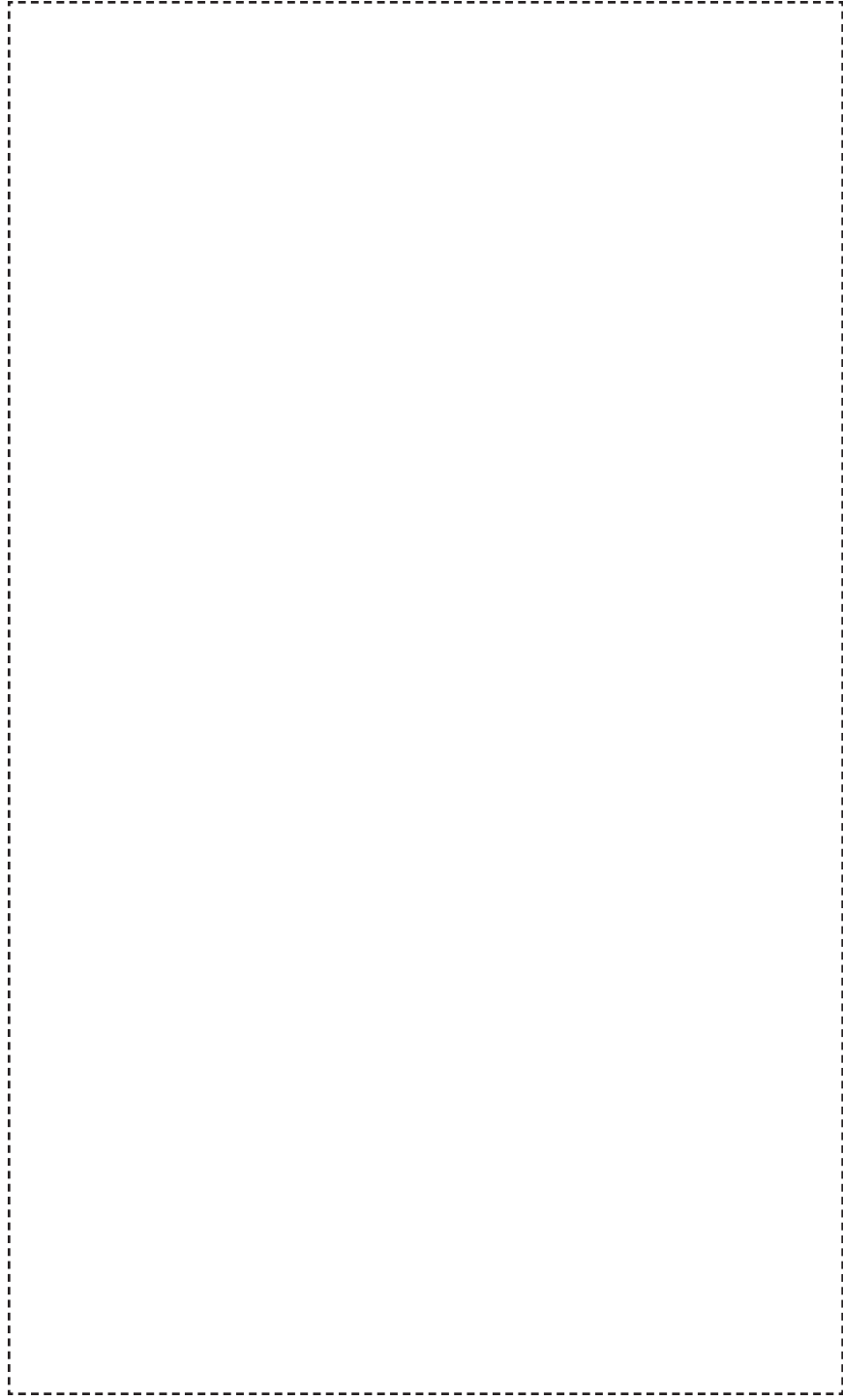
Can you find all the **D**'s
on this page?

How about all the
letters that make the
Ch sound?

Practice identifying
letters in the books
you read together.

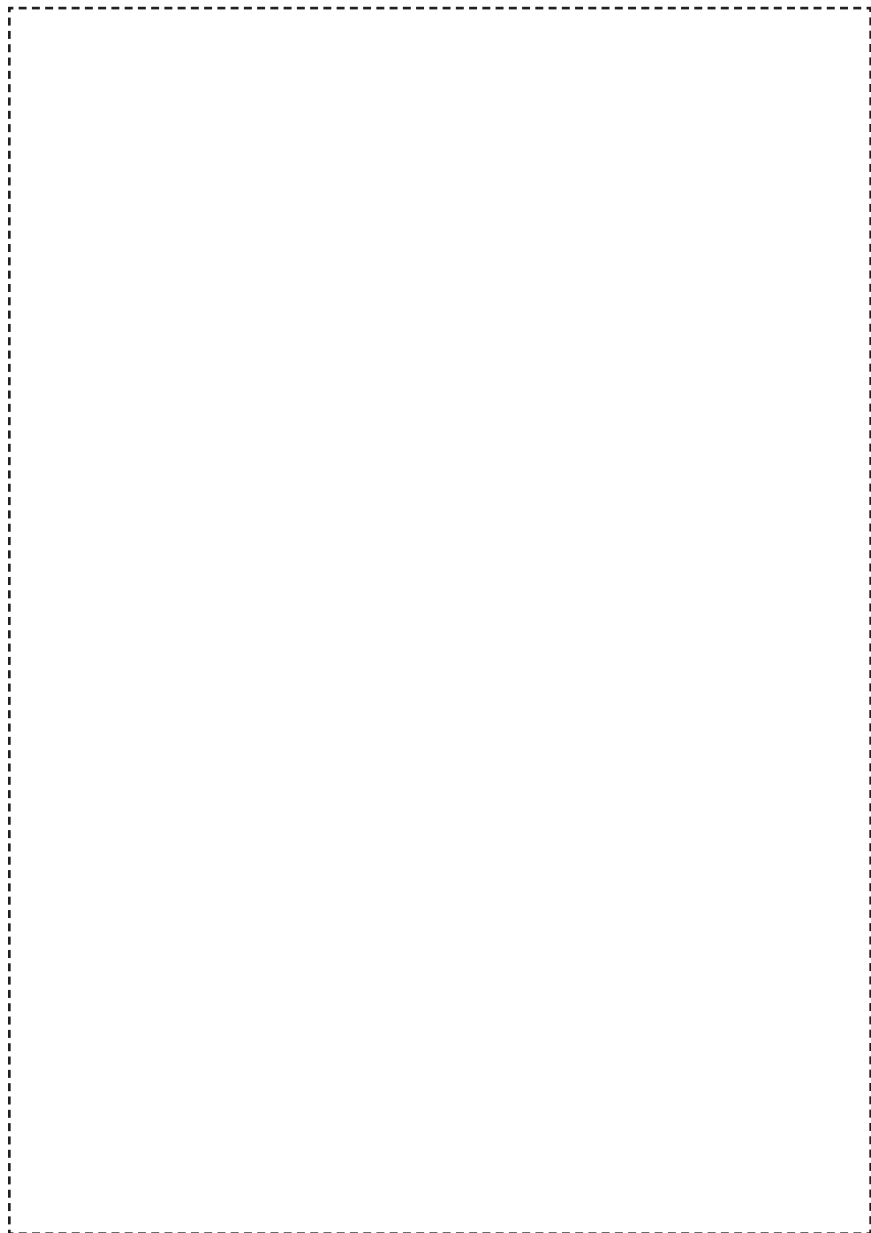
Trace the Letters!








A a		A A A A A a a a a a
B b		B B B B B b b b b b
C c		C C C C C c c c c c
D d		D D D D D d d d d d
E e		E E E E E e e e e e




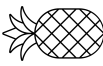
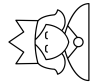
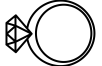



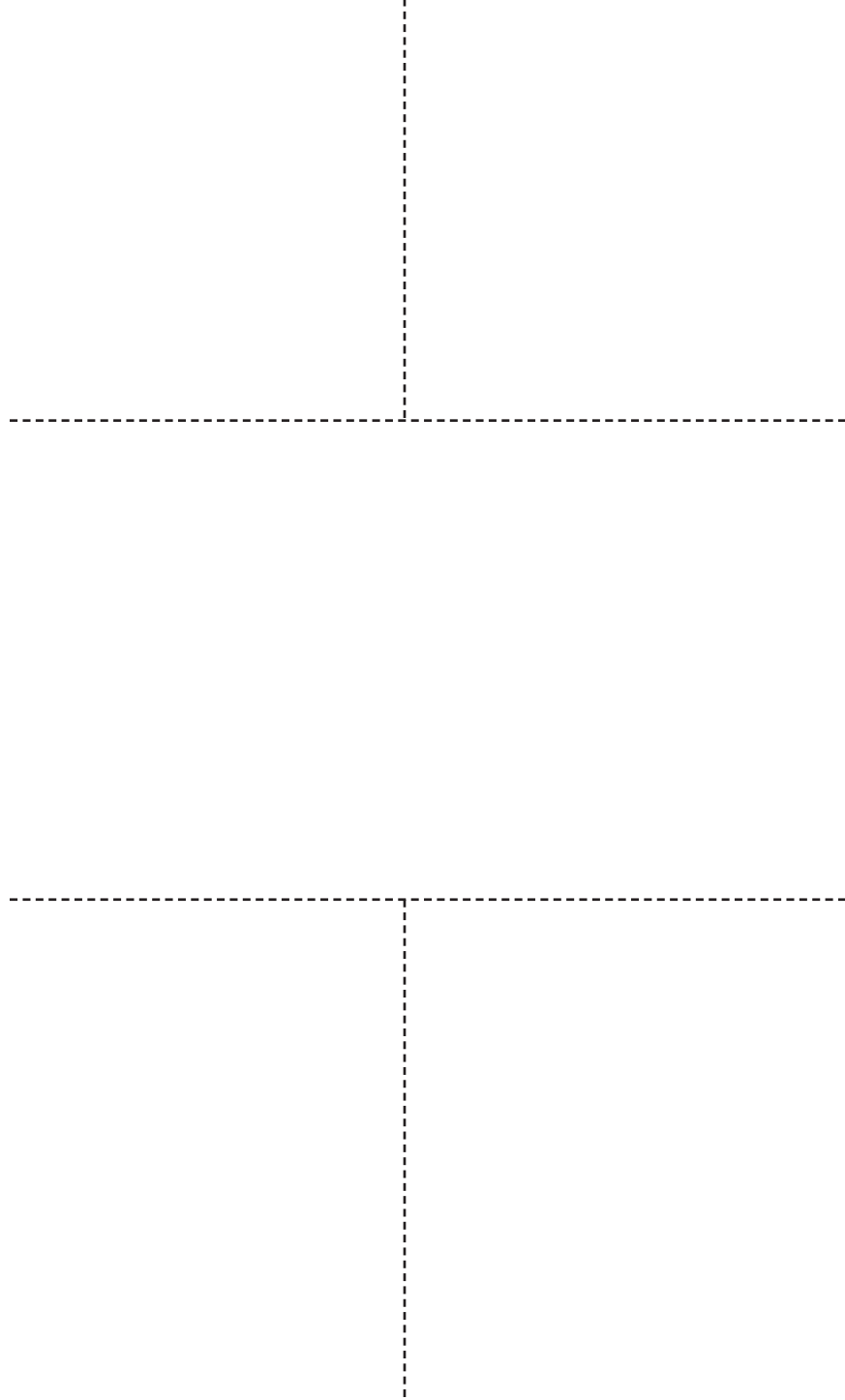


Use these pages for drawings inspired by your reading.










F f	G g	H h	I i	J j	K k	L l
						
FFFFF fffff	GGGGG ggggg	HHHHH hhhhh	IIIIII iiiiiii	JJJJJ jjjjj	KKKKK kkkkk	LLLLL lllll

M m		M M M M M m m m m m
N n		N N N N N n n n n n
O o		O O O O O o o o o o
P p		P P P P P p p p p p
Q q		Q Q Q Q Q q q q q q
R r		R R R R R r r r r r
S s		S S S S S s s s s s



Draw some things you saw on an Alphabet Walk!



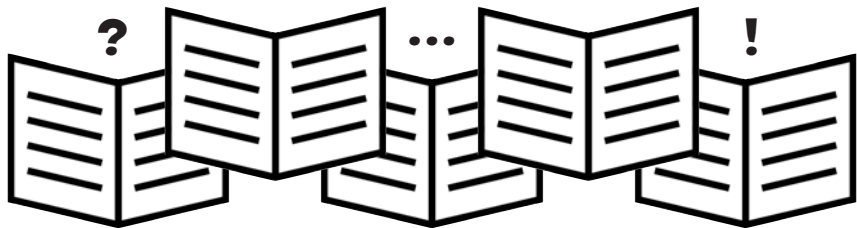
T T T T T T T T T T	U U U U U U U U U U	V V V V V V V V V V	W W W W W W W W W W	X X X X X X X X X X	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z
						
T t	U u	V v	W w	X x	Y y	Z z

Rereading Books

Read the same text multiple times, reading similarly to the way you would speak.

Pay attention to punctuation, pointing out periods, question marks, and exclamation points.

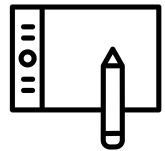
You can repeat sentences within a book, read a book multiple times in a session, or begin each session with the same book, helping your reader become familiar with texts through repetition.



Express Yourself

Use different formats to express the ideas you learn from books.

- **Art** (drawing, painting, collaging)
- **Music and movement** (dancing, singing, playing an instrument)
- **Writing** (journal entry, comic book)



Enjoy Reading & Have Fun!

Not every book needs to be a reading lesson! Encourage readers to first just pick up different kinds of books and then explore topics they find interesting through reading.

Alphabet Walk

Walking is good for your physical health...and a great activity for practicing early literacy skills!

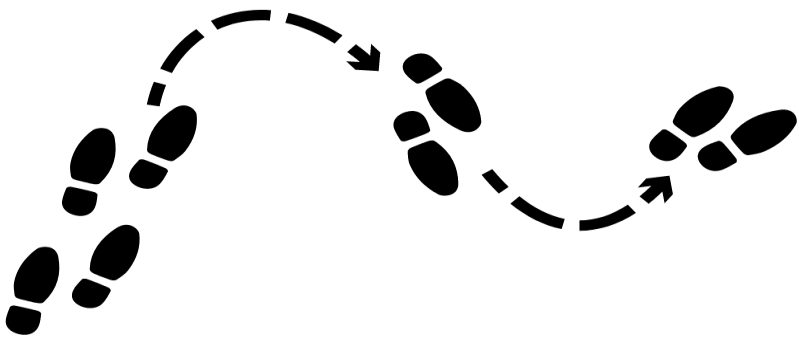
You can play Alphabet Walk two ways.

1

Pick a letter of the alphabet and find as many things beginning with that letter as you can (bird, ball, bakery, etc.).

2

Go through the entire alphabet and find something beginning with each letter (apple, boy, car, dog, etc.).



Alphabet Walk

Walking is good for your physical health... and a great activity to practice early literacy skills!

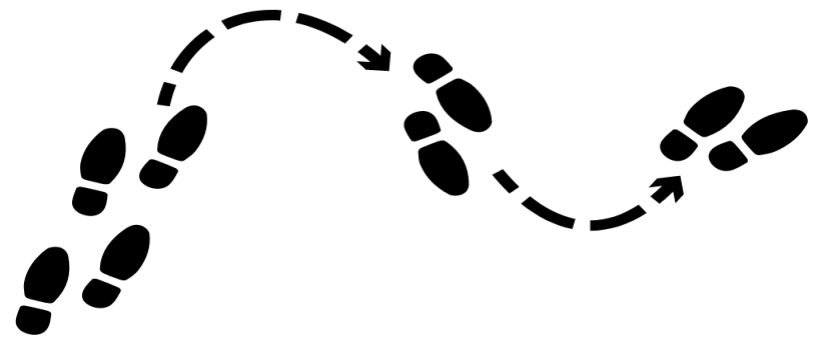
You can play Alphabet Walk two ways.

1

Pick a letter of the alphabet and find as many things beginning with that letter as you can.

2

Go through the entire alphabet and find something beginning with each letter.

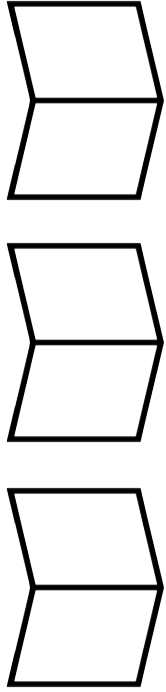


Draw some things you saw on an Alphabet Walk!



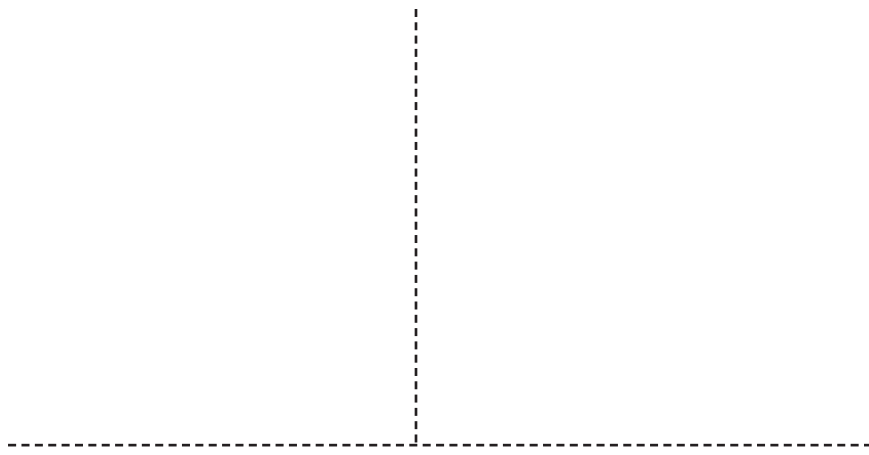
A large dashed-line grid for drawing. It consists of a vertical dashed line and two horizontal dashed lines, creating a large rectangular area divided into three sections by the horizontal lines.

Notes / Drawings				
Rating	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Author				
Book Title				



My Book Log

Book Title	Author	Rating	Notes / Drawings
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	



Reading Activities

Puppet Talk

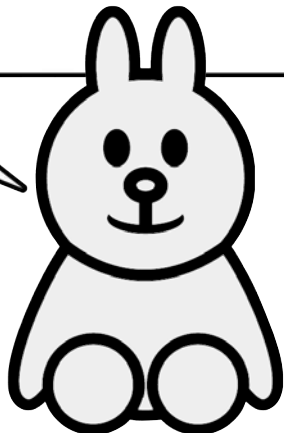
Play language games with stuffed animals, puppets, sock puppets, or paper dolls.

My name is **Pat**.

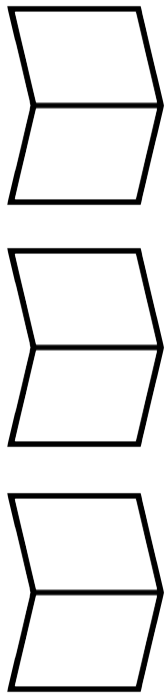
I like words that rhyme with my name.

Does **mat** rhyme with Pat?

Does **ball** rhyme with Pat?



Notes / Drawings				
Rating	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Author				
Book Title				



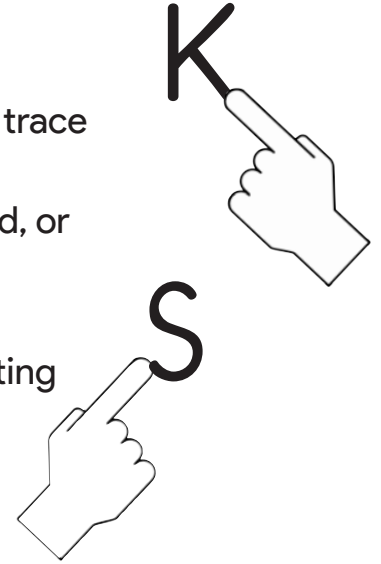
My Book Log

Book Title	Author	Rating	Notes / Drawings
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	

Finger Tracing

Have your child use a finger to trace letters while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or in a big plastic bag of sugar.

Begin with a few letters, repeating them for a few weeks before moving on to another set of letters.



I Spy

As you play indoors or outside, look around and say, "I spy something that starts with the (letter) sound. What is it?"

I spy something that starts with the **M** sound.
What is it?

They're what we wear to keep our hands warm.

It's where we get our letters.





Draw some things that rhyme with words you like!

Word: _____





A large dashed rectangular box for drawing.

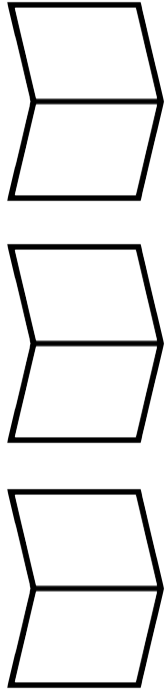
Word: _____

A large dashed rectangular box for drawing.

Word: _____

A large dashed rectangular box for drawing.

Notes / Drawings				
Rating				
Author				
Book Title				



My Book Log

Book Title	Author	Rating	Notes / Drawings
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	

Word: _____

Word: _____

Word: _____



**Draw some of the things
you chose for I Spy!**

Letter: _____

Letter: _____

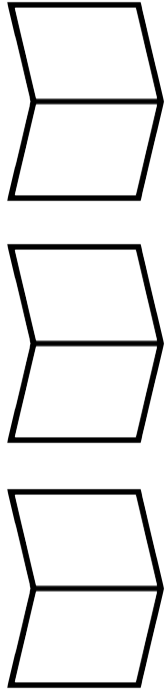
Letter: _____

Letter: _____

Letter: _____

Letter: _____

Notes / Drawings				
Rating	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Author				
Book Title				



My Book Log

Book Title	Author	Rating	Notes / Drawings
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	

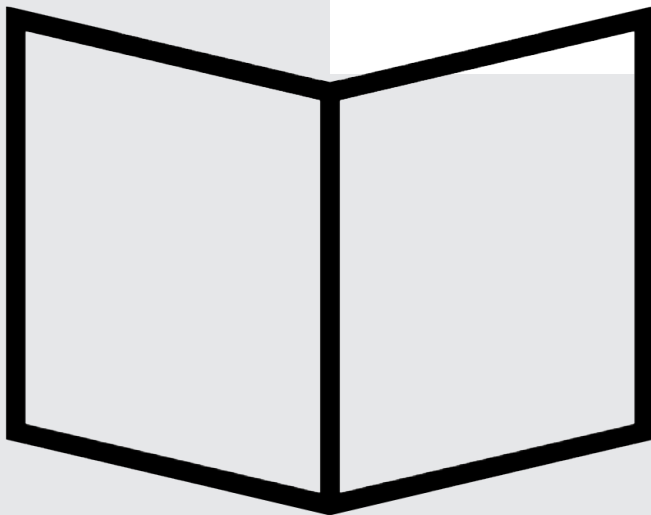
Letter: _____	Letter: _____
Letter: _____	Letter: _____
Letter: _____	Letter: _____

Book Logs

Keep a log of books read! Discuss whether your reader liked or disliked the book, and **WHY**. This will help determine the types of books they will want to read in the future.

Things to record in your Book Log might include:

- What did you like about the book?
- What did you not like?
- Did you like the setting? The characters? The plot?
- Why or why not?
- Draw a picture of something that stood out to you.



My Book Log

Book Title	Author	Rating	Notes / Drawings
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	
		☆☆☆	

Letting Them Read

Give your reader the opportunity to complete a sentence or page before jumping in to help or correct them.

It's okay to let them struggle through new words and concepts before asking:

Do you want...



Time?

or

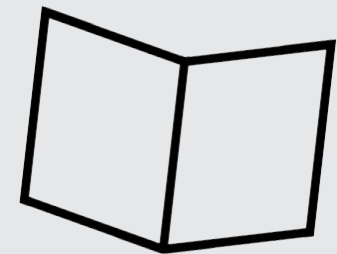
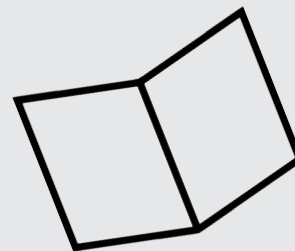
Help?



Give them a few moments to figure out the word or concept on their own.

Give a hint or an answer.

Tips & Activities for Early Readers



Picture Walk

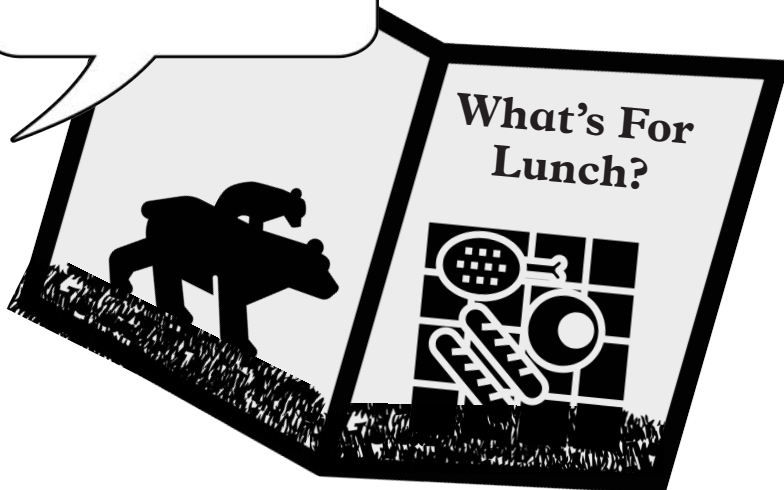
A picture walk is a great way to talk with your reader about a story while making connections to their lives and the things they understand.

Picture walks emphasize connecting reading to previous knowledge.

1

Look at the book's cover together and describe what you see.

In this picture, I see mama bear and her cub having a picnic.



Character

Character

Plot (Scene)

Plot (Scene)

Draw A...

Character

Character

Setting

Setting

- 2 Have the reader open to the first page of the story and ask them to describe what they see happening on the page.

Encourage them to speak in sentences and to give as many details as possible, referring to the characters, the setting (place and time), and story events.

Have your reader connect what they see to their own experiences.

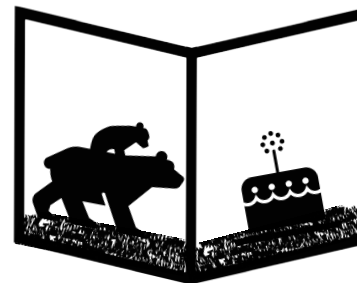
Before you turn to the last page, ask your reader to guess how the story ends, based on the picture walk.

Turn the page and reveal the final picture.

Have **you** ever eaten a picnic lunch before?

Where?

What happened on that day?



Was the guess correct?

Draw some pictures to describe together!

A large dashed cross shape, consisting of a vertical line and a horizontal line intersecting at the center, intended for drawing.

List some examples from your favorite books.



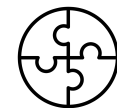
Main Idea

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Problem / Solution

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Connections

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Academic Vocabulary



Characters

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Setting

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Plot

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Learning New Words



Look for opportunities to teach your reader new words – both how to read them and what they mean!



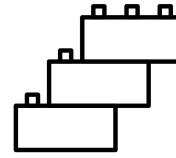
- Do you recognize any words or letters?
- Look at the beginning of the word.
- Look at the ending of the word.
- Can you break the word into smaller pieces?
- What does this word mean?
- Can you use it in another sentence?
- Look at pictures for clues.

Academic vocabulary can help parents and families improve the likelihood of educational success. It also provides readers with the tools they need to comprehend their world, in school and beyond.

When you can, use academic vocabulary while discussing comprehension.

	Problem / Solution	How do the characters learn something in the story? What are their problems and solutions?
	Connections	Does anything in this story remind you of something that has happened to you or someone you know? Does it remind you of another book, movie or show? How so?

Using Academic Vocabulary



Build Vocabulary

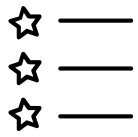
When you encounter a word that may be new or unfamiliar to your reader, take time to talk about what it means.

Make connections to other words or ideas.

	<p>Characters</p>	<p>Who are the people, animals, etc. in the story?</p>
	<p>Setting</p>	<p>Where does the story take place?</p>
	<p>Plot</p>	<p>What happens in the story?</p>
	<p>Main Idea</p>	<p>What are some ideas, themes, or lessons we can learn from this story?</p>

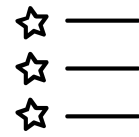
This word is **tulip**. A tulip is a type of flower. Roses are my favorite flower. What other kinds of flowers do you know?

Look for opportunities to teach new words in your everyday life. The more words you use in your daily routines, the more likely your young reader is to recognize and understand them in books!



Vocabulary List

Word	It Means...



Vocabulary List

Word	It Means...