

Parent Guide to

LUCKY

Grades 2–3 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your independent reader

May
2009

Get your
Parent Guide to Lucky
Every Month
at www.scholastic.com/read.

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Lucky
May Book Club flyer.

Ghosts Do Splash in Puddles by Marcia Thornton Jones

Who It's For:

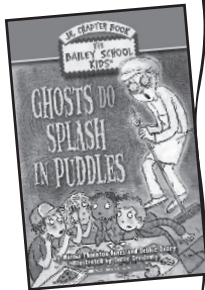
Fans of Bailey School Kids who are newly independent readers; kids who like funny chapter books.

Why We Chose It:

This junior version of the best-selling original series has easier text and more illustrations.

What Parents Say:

"Reading his funny, slightly scary series makes my child feel so grown-up."



Black Lagoon Adventures #15: The Spring Dance from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler

Who It's For:

Fans of Black Lagoon picture books who have moved to chapter books; reluctant readers.

Why We Chose It:

Full of silly puns and plays on words, the Black Lagoon chapter books are a great way for kids to laugh at their own anxieties.

What Parents Say:

"Reading this together is a family laugh fest."



Ocean Giants by Kate Waters

Who It's For:

Kids curious about sea animals; beginning readers interested in facts.

Why We Chose It:

It taught us a lot about whales, giant clams, moray eels, manta rays, jellyfish, sharks, and dolphins—and walrus and seals, too.

What Parents Say:

"The easy-to-read text has loads of cool color photos!"



Get Creative With Literacy

Artistic activities do more than stretch your child's imagination — they give her a chance to flex skills she needs as a strong reader. Try these creative literacy boosts together:

- **Introduce visual arts.** We often think that reading is only about printed words, but a key to understanding text is being able to visualize it. Have your child draw, paint, or mold from clay scenes from a story you've read with her. Specifically, ask her to create a scene not illustrated in the book. This will help her develop visualization skills. Does she depict the character/setting as the author describes? Can she explain the scene she's depicted as well as what happens before and after? Encourage her to imagine details (wardrobe, weather, etc.) that the author doesn't describe.
- **Get dramatic.** Following a character's role in a drama teaches elements that are important to reading fluency as well as comprehension — story sequencing, climax, plot, characterization, and reading with expression. Have your child pick a favorite book where the action revolves around three or four characters, then help him turn the story into a play. Together, you can form a Readers Theater where you and your child read the parts with dramatic emphasis. Or help him organize a cast of friends to stage the play (complete with props and costumes).
- **Put it to music.** Like poetry, songs let your child test the boundaries of language and self-expression. If your grade schooler isn't interested in writing poetry, but is enthusiastic about music, encourage her to write song lyrics. Putting original words to a well-known tune is a great start. Thinking about the "story" behind the music is also a great way to introduce concepts such as mood. For instance, have her imagine producing a movie based on the book she's reading. Which songs would she put on a soundtrack, based on lyrics and melody? Fast-paced rock? Love songs?



Did You Know?

May 16 is Biographer's Day. Help your child script and film a short documentary about a family member's life.

Ask an Expert

Help! How can I get my child to read more?

Kids today are super-busy — lots to do and little time. However, just like playing an instrument or a sport, reading requires practice, practice, and more practice. Here are three ideas for getting kids to practice more so they'll read better:

Read all about it. Involve them in activities that have a reading element:

- Cooking: recipes and labels
- Traveling: maps, signs, and guides
- Keeping up with current events: magazines and newspapers

Read together. Schedule a time each day where everyone reads. It is a good time for you to catch up on your reading, to set a great example, and for your child to do reading homework.

Make a reading record. Help your child keep track of books read. Have him record the book, author, and a brief impression.

Meet our expert: Francie Alexander, a former teacher, is vice president and chief academic officer for Scholastic.

Help your child stay creative as she grows.

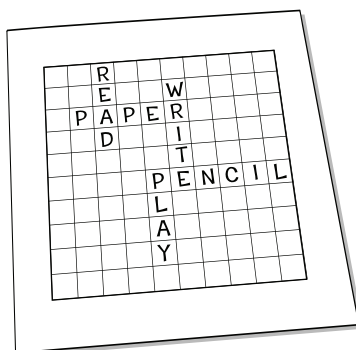
- Have a place where your child can create — a place that may get messy at times.
- Give him plenty of raw material: old fabrics; paint supplies, including chalkboard paint or spray paint that makes textures; magazines and secondhand books to tear up; food to cook. Have him walk around his environment and "shop" for still-life items and elements for compositions.
- Teach your child how to really look at things. Shooting pictures through the car window with a disposable or digital camera is fun. Tell your child to shoot with no preconceived notions, and see what she comes up with.
- Allow your child to figure things out for himself: what to order at the bakery counter, how to work out an argument with a friend, what to wear on Halloween, where to go and what to see on a family trip. Show him that his decisions and opinions are important. Creative thinking is a great survival skill.
- Play music in your home. Borrow CDs from the library to broaden your scope, choosing unusual genres just for fun.
- When it's gift-giving time, encourage your child to make something: cook a meal; bake cupcakes; perform a comedy sketch, poem, or song; plant daffodils in Nana's yard.
- Give your child a Dream Diary to keep by her bedside. Writing down dreams can be the basis of a future story or painting, or just a record of what's on her mind.

Cool Crosswords

Make a word puzzle!

What you need:

- paper
- ruler
- pencil with eraser
- pen or marker



What to do:

1. Use the ruler and pen to make a crossword grid. It should be approximately 15 spaces across and 15 spaces down.
2. Invite your child to select two words that have at least one letter in common.
3. She can then figure out how to "cross" the words by writing one horizontally and one vertically, so that the words share a letter where they intersect.
4. Next, encourage her to finish by adding as many more words as possible to the grid. For an extra challenge, she can create grids using words that have a common topic, such as sports or music.

Daily Reading Fun

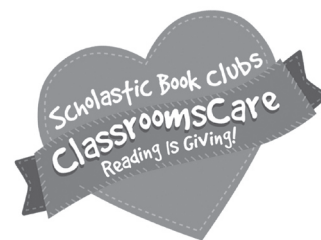
As May flowers start to bloom, take your child on a nature walk. Bring along art supplies so she can make a painting or drawing of the bugs, trees, birds, and spring flowers you encounter. Then, using a kid-friendly field guide, help her identify the flora and fauna she spotted.

Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit www.scholastic.com/classroomscare to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message -- kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.



Beyond Books

Abracadabra! Help your magnificent magician learn to juggle, make coins disappear, and perform amazing sleights of hand. All he needs is a top hat, wand, and a book of magic tricks. He can practice reading skills and following directions as he perfects his magic.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Parent Guide to Lucky
Your Parent Guide to Lucky is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit www.scholastic.com/read.