

Activity 3: Building A Tree Of Knowledge

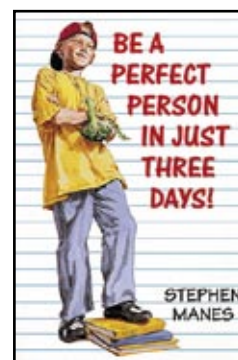
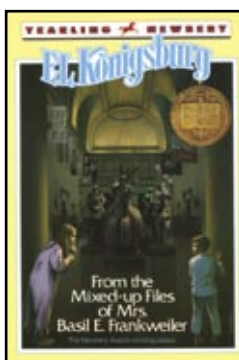
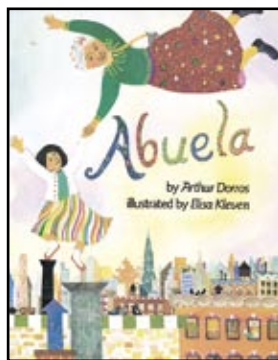
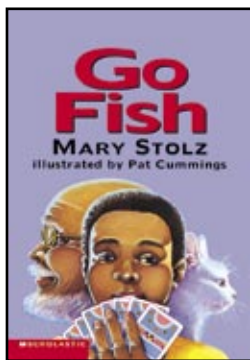
**BIG
IDEA**

Family

Books can tell us where we come from and can help shed light on the bonds that support and strengthen families. Use *family* as the big idea to build a family tree of knowledge that links children and their reading success.

Books to Highlight: Choose books that talk about families. Examples are:

- *Go Fish* by Mary Stolz is an easy to read chapter book about a boy and his grandfather. (ages 7-9)
- *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros is about a girl and her grandmother's adventure in NYC (ages 4-6)
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg (ages 8-12)
- *Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days* by Stephen Manes (ages 8-12)



Arts and Crafts: A visual family tree of knowledge helps children track their reading. Find a common area to create your tree trunk using brown paper bags. Then, use the accompanying “leaves” so children can write their name and book title on their classroom branch. As the year goes on, they can include more leaves as they keep reading. Bring supplies to the distribution so children can create their “learning leaf” right away. See “leaf” template.



Community Involvement: Expand the family tree to include community members by inviting them to share their family stories. Stories about immigration, about childhoods or about family traditions speak to this age range and fit into curricular studies. Local historians can share communal stories that help develop a shared sense of family.



Time of Year: This is a good activity to start at the beginning of the year. The “Tree of Knowledge” can be used as a reference point throughout the year and serves as a visual marker to the cumulative reading the school is doing as a family.



Questions to Engage Children:

- *Can you always judge a book by its cover? Why? Why not?*
- *What family stories have you read and enjoyed?*

Tree Of Knowledge

Copy and Distribute these Learning Leaves for your Tree of Knowledge. Or just use these leaves as a border. You can even collect them and paste them on a bulletin board to celebrate autumn.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Book Read: _____

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Book Read: _____

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Book Read: _____