

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

May 2009

Lake Washington School District
Safety Net



Book Picks

■ *Kira-Kira*

Katie's big sister, Lynn, always sees the "kira-kira" ("glittering") side of things. But life isn't easy for their Japanese American family in the 1950s. When Lynn gets sick, can Katie help her family see a kira-kira future? A Newbery Medal Book by Cynthia Kadohata. (Available in Spanish.)



■ *Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka*

Where did Jon Scieszka get his sense of humor? Readers will find out in his hilarious memoir. The popular children's author recounts the mischief he and his five brothers made—with a little exaggeration thrown in. What's true, and what's *almost* true?



■ *Billy Creekmore*

Ten-year-old Billy Creekmore has been raised in an orphanage. One day a man who says he's his uncle comes to claim him. As Billy works in the coal mines and travels with the circus, he searches for answers about his past. An adventure novel by Tracey Porter.

■ *Freaky Friday*

In Mary Rodgers's classic book, Annabel thinks being a grown-up would be perfect. She could do anything she wanted, with nobody to boss her around. Then one morning she wakes up in her mother's body. Soon Annabel learns there's more to being an adult than just being older.



Summer reading adventures

Playing, vacationing, family time... where does reading fit into your child's summer plans? Look for chances to read before, during, or after these activities.

Camping

Your youngster can prepare for a camping trip with a how-to book like *Camp Out!* by Lynn Brunelle. Once you're outdoors (in your backyard or at a campground), sing campfire songs and read spooky stories aloud. Take along titles such as *Camp Granada: Sing-Along Camp Songs* (Frané Lessac) and *13 Scary Ghost Stories* (Marianne Carus).



Gatherings

Let your youngster find activities for family get-togethers. Have him read books such as *FamilyFun Parties* (Deanna F. Cook) or visit a Web site like <http://family-reunion.com>. At the event, suggest that he have guests sign in by writing a family memory in a notebook. After dessert, he can pass it around for everyone to read. *Tip:* Have him organize a family book swap by asking relatives to bring a book they enjoyed. ■

The power of persuasion

Advertising a summer business can help your youngster practice persuasive writing. Share these secrets for creating eye-catching ads:

- Have her look for convincing words in magazine ads and make a list for her business. For example, "ice cold" and "refreshing" are good choices for a lemonade stand.
- Teach your child persuasive techniques like using logic or appealing to emotions ("Don't have enough time to walk your dog? My dog-walking service provides the exercise he needs!").

Tip: Help her post flyers around the neighborhood to advertise her business. ■



Listen to this!

Interviewing others builds an important conversation skill: listening! A good interviewer listens carefully and lets a person's answers determine what she asks next.

Let your child interview you about your job (or a job you've had in the past). She'll learn what you do all day—and may even start thinking about careers she'd like when she grows up.

Start with good questions

Help your youngster think of questions to ask. Suggest that she ask open-ended questions, rather than ones that are



answered with “yes” or “no.” For example, asking, “What is your favorite part of your job?” will keep the conversation going better than, “Do you like your job?”

Follow up

Although your child will start with a list of questions, she doesn't have to stick to a script. She may end up adding questions, skipping around, or leaving some out altogether. If you say that making phone calls is the favorite part of your day, help her brainstorm ways to follow up (“Who do you call? “What do you talk about?”). Then, it's your turn to interview your child about what she does in school all day. 📖

Q&A Surfing safely

Q My son will probably spend more time online this summer. How can I make sure he stays safe?

A Your son can have fun on the Internet while following important rules. If you haven't already, set up parental controls on your computer to block inappropriate sites.

Remind your child never to post his full name, his address, or pictures of himself with any identifying details (school, neighborhood). Explain



that he should never respond to e-mails or IMs from screen names he doesn't recognize. Also, have him stay away from public chat rooms—instead, he should use instant-messaging programs to chat with people he knows.

Finally, keep the computer where you can see it (family room, kitchen), and monitor what he's doing online. 📖

Other Picks

WEB SITES

■ HyperHistory Online

The colorful timelines on this site let readers see at a glance what was happening around the world from pre-historic through modern times. They can also read biographies of world leaders, scientists, writers, and musicians. www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

■ Art Safari

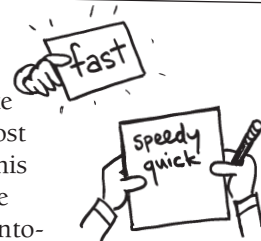
Write a story about an animal painting or sculpture in this online gallery. Questions prompt visitors to look closely at the art and describe it. Or children can create art that's inspired by what they see. www.moma.org/momalearning/artsafari



GAMES

■ Nymble

Players compete to make the most word pairs in this fast-paced game of synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. It's up to each person to convince his opponents that his matches are valid. Nymble is a fun way to build vocabulary and practice debating. *Great New Games Inc.*



■ Upwords

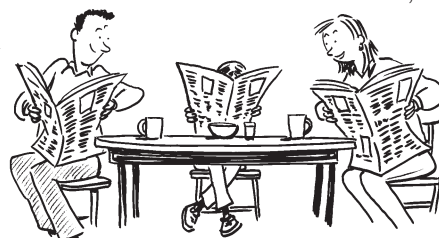
Can you turn “flap” into “flat”? You can if you stack your tiles right in this crossword game. Players arrange tiles on the board to form words or stack tiles on existing words to create new ones. Improves spelling and strategic-thinking skills. *Hasbro*

Parent 2 Parent

A nose for news

My husband and I always read the newspaper at breakfast. Recently, we decided to include our daughter Shelby in our morning ritual. It seemed like an easy way to get her to read each day—and to start her on an important lifetime habit.

We began by leaving the comics by her place at the table. Then, on the weekend, my husband asked her to look for movies and



concerts in the entertainment section. We also shared articles on topics we thought she'd like, such as the space shuttle and a local teacher winning an award.

Soon Shelby was searching the paper for book reviews, baseball statistics, and stories about India, where her best friend was born. Now she even points out articles for us to enjoy! 📖



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators,
a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc.
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5583