

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

April 2008

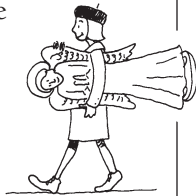
W.A. Cunningham Intermediate School 234

Susan Schaeffer, Principal

Book Picks

■ *Saffy's Angel*

In this tale by Hilary McKay, Saffy grows up in a zany British family, only to find out she is really an adopted cousin. Then, her grandfather dies, and she inherits a stone angel no one can find. The mystery continues when Saffy goes to Italy in search of the statue.



■ *The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids*

What makes the aurora borealis glow? Which is smarter—a pig or an elephant? Readers can discover answers to these questions and many more in this brightly illustrated reference book.



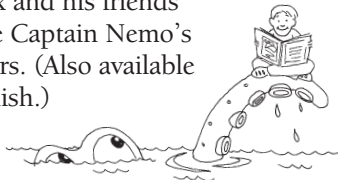
The volume is also packed with stories and activities.

■ *The Manny Files*

As the only boy in a family of girls, Keats is thrilled with the new male nanny. But his oldest sister isn't so pleased. Can Keats spoil her campaign to get the "manny" fired? A hilarious look at family life by Christian Burch.

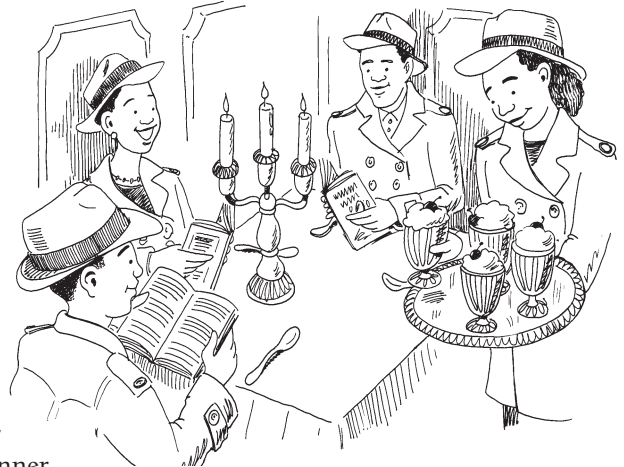
■ *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*

In this classic undersea adventure by Jules Verne, Professor Arronax joins a mission to catch a giant sea monster. But the "monster" turns out to be the submarine *Nautilus*—and Arronax and his friends become Captain Nemo's prisoners. (Also available in Spanish.)



Celebrate reading

Reading for pleasure is one of the best habits your child can develop. Help him along by planning book-inspired celebrations for the whole family. His motivation is sure to soar with these ideas.



Mystery night

Host a mystery dinner. Begin by reading a mystery aloud, a chapter a night. Save the last chapter for your special meal. Then, plan a dinner with a few simple courses (salad, spaghetti, ice cream sundaes). Before each course, read a bit of the final chapter. Discuss the clues and see if you can figure out "whodunit" by dessert!

such as Thomas Rockwell's *How to Eat Fried Worms*. Get library copies so everyone can read the book. Then, watch the movie, discuss the book, and compare the two versions. Which is better, and why? 📖

Sports talk

Next time your favorite team has a big game on TV, turn the event into a reading opportunity. Get books of sports facts or biographies of players, and take turns reading information to each other before the game begins, during breaks, and when it's over.

Comedy club

Read jokes for an evening of laughter. Have each family member find joke or riddle books at the library, browse through them, and mark favorites to share. Encourage everyone to read with expression. You can vote for the funniest ones.

Hooray for Hollywood

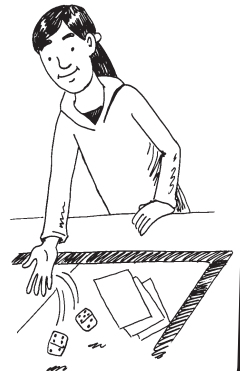
Plan a movie-and-popcorn night. Choose a book that has been made into a film,

Test trivia game

How can your child take studying seriously while having fun? By creating and playing this review game with you!

Together, look through her textbook chapters. Turn definitions, bold text, famous people, and important dates into questions. Write each question and answer on an index card. Then, borrow the board, a die, and tokens from any board game.

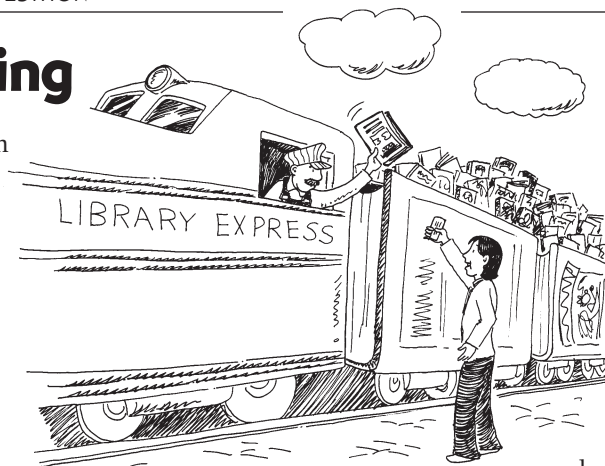
Place the cards facedown. One player rolls the die, and the other picks a card and asks the question. If the player answers correctly, she moves the number rolled, and goes again. If not, her turn is over. The first person around the board wins. For more study time, play again. 📖



Passport to learning

A library card and a little imagination can be your youngster's passport to any destination on the globe. These activities will let your armchair traveler explore other cultures:

- Learn words in another language by checking out a foreign-language dictionary. Your child can look up words for household objects and make labels for them. Encourage her to use the words in conversations, too. Try *The Oxford Picture Dictionary* in French, Spanish, or Arabic.



- Browse a collection of multicultural projects like *Hands On Crafts for Kids: Crafts Around the World* edited by Katherine Stull. Then, gather craft supplies and have your youngster try her hand at making Mexican worry dolls, Chinese tangrams, or Australian cave paintings.

- Your child might be surprised to learn that kids in other lands enjoy games similar to ours.

How do youngsters play marbles in France, tag in India, or jacks in Haiti? Have your child find out by reading a book such as *Sidewalk Games Around the World* by Arlene Erlbach. 📖



Parent 2 Parent

Create and tell

Whenever we used to go somewhere in the car, my children would keep asking, "Are we there yet?" I needed something to break up the boredom. One day I suggested that they take turns telling stories about the buildings, vehicles, and people we passed.



When my son Marcus saw a waffle restaurant, he told a story about a house that

was actually made of waffles. The family that lived there would stick forks in the walls when they got hungry. Next, my daughter Meg turned an airplane overhead into a story about a flying minivan filled with aliens.

The stories were so great that I bought a notebook and asked the kids to write them down so we wouldn't forget them. Marcus and Meg titled the book "Car Tales," and now we don't leave home without it! 📖

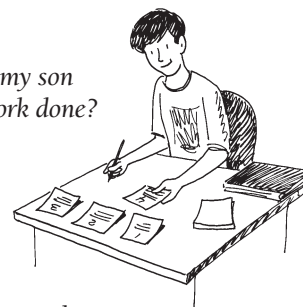
Q&A

Homework help

Q Big homework assignments are a challenge for my son Sean, who has ADHD. How can I help him get his work done?

A Many children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder have trouble keeping track of everything that goes into their assignments. Try teaching your son this method for getting organized.

First, have him list each task needed to complete the assignment (look up vocabulary words, write definitions, use each term in a sentence). Then, he can write each step on a sticky note. Suggest that he post the notes in order on his desk and remove each one as he finishes that part. This method lets him see his progress as he goes. Plus, he'll feel a sense of accomplishment when he pulls off the last note and his work is complete. 📖



Other Picks

SOFTWARE

■ *Cyberchase Carnival Chaos*

Fans of the *PBS Kids* series will enjoy practicing math, logic, and reasoning skills as they save the virtual universe from a hacker. Activities in this carnival adventure include Code Cracker, Soggy Soaker, Bumper Bash, and Skee Ball Challenge. *Brighter Child*

■ *Zoog Genius: Language Arts, History, & Geography*

Your youngster is the next contestant in this quiz-show game for one or two players. Three levels of difficulty let him test his knowledge with multiple-choice questions. He will score points for every correct answer as he works toward the title of "Zoog Genius."

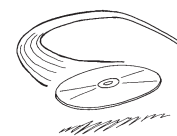
Disney Interactive



MAGAZINES

■ *Boomerang!*

This audio magazine won the American Library Association's Notable Recording Award and is available on CD or as a digital download for MP3 players. Each issue features segments about current events, geography, science, and more—all reported by kids and for kids ages 6–12. www.boomkids.com



■ *Calliope*

Expose your youngster to world history with this monthly magazine for grades 4 and up. *Calliope* explores ancient civilizations, world events, and the people who have shaped history. Past issues include topics such as Napoleon, the Tang Dynasty, Galileo, China and Technology, and much more. 800-821-0115

OUR PURPOSE

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

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