

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

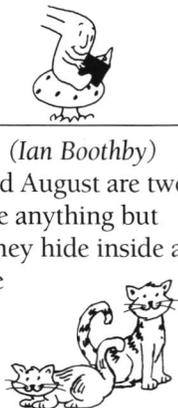
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Moore Public Schools
Title I Reading

Book Picks

■ *Sparks!* (Ian Boothby)

Charlie and August are two cats who are anything but ordinary. Every day, they hide inside a mechanical dog while they save lives. Join them in this graphic-novel adventure as they try to stop an alien named Princess from taking over the world.



■ *Inventions That Could Have Changed the World ... But Didn't!*

(Joe Rhatigan)

This nonfiction book gives readers a glimpse into some of the wacky inventions people request patents for. Imagine a TV you can smell, an alarm clock that lunges you out of bed, and a screeching doll, to name a few. Find out what could have been in this hilarious read.



■ *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say*

(Angela Dominguez)

Stella has a lot to say, but she's still learning English and is nervous about speaking in front of her classmates. This year in school she wants to make a new friend and compete in the spelling bee, and she has to give an oral presentation. Follow along as Stella gains courage and finds her voice.

■ *Poetry for Kids: William Shakespeare*

(William Shakespeare, edited by Marguerite Tassi)

Introduce youngsters to Shakespeare in this illustrated volume. The book includes excerpts from 35 well-known poems, verses, and sonnets, with definitions and explanations.



Writing warm-ups

Creative writing is like any other skill—it gets easier with practice. Your child can limber up her imagination and stretch her writing muscles with these fun ideas.

Collect characters

Let your youngster cut pictures of people from old magazines and newspapers. Then, she can glue each one onto an index card and write a “character sketch” (description) on the back. Suggest that she include lots of details: the person’s name, his personality traits, and what’s important to him. She’ll have a cast of characters to use in her creative writing assignments.



Ask questions

This exercise is good for brainstorming plot twists. Give your child a small notebook, and encourage her to jot down “What if?” questions whenever they strike her. For example, while working on her science fair project, she might think, “What if a science experiment made the whole school invisible?” She can use her questions as inspiration for stories.

Pick a point of view

Have your youngster keep a list of story starters from different points of view. She might imagine how a ballerina feels before a recital—and how her ballet slippers might feel. (“We were nervous as we warmed up for the big performance.”) *Tip:* Suggest that your child write the same story from a different object’s or character’s point of view. How does the story change? ■

Use your library

Tap into your hometown library to foster your youngster’s love of reading and find free family activities. Consider these ways to put library trips into your regular routine.

1. Make time. Pick a day that works for your family. You might visit on the third Saturday of each month or every other Friday afternoon.

2. Make each trip different. Your child might read magazines on one trip and explore music or videos on another. Ask your youngster what he would like to dig into each time.

3. Make it a family affair. Check the library bulletin board or website for events your whole family would enjoy. Keep an eye out for club meetings, storytelling, concerts, and movies. ■

