READING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR AGES 7-12
Mark Twain Reader's Award Nominees 2023-2024

A Place to Hang the Moon
by Kate Albus

Linked
by Gordon Korman

Nightingale
by Deva Fagan

Once Upon a Camel
by Kathi Appelt

One Kid's Trash
by Jamie Summer

Pony
by R.J. Palacio
Six Feet Below Zero
By Ena Jones

Tangled Up in Luck
By Merrill Wyatt

The Hidden Knife
By Melissa Marr

The Lion of Mars
By Jennifer L. Holm

The Night Ride
By J. Anderson Coats

Worst-Case Collin
By Rebecca Capra
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... AND YOUR KIDS!
Children want to learn about money, and they do so by watching you earn, save, and spend.

As kids grow during middle childhood, they begin to understand abstract concepts, such as setting goals, how checking and savings accounts work, and comparison shopping. They may receive money in the form of allowances and be able to decide what they want to do with the money—spend it, save it, or share it with others.

As they learn more about money and the marketplace, they begin to form personal values, beliefs, and shortcuts that guide many of their attitudes, behaviors, and habits.

You are a role model to your children. To help them develop positive financial attitudes, habits, and shortcuts, you can:

- Talk with your children about your values and beliefs and how they guide your financial decision making and behaviors.
- Focus on sharing your strengths, whether it’s your ability to live or shop frugally, stretch your resources, plan, organize, save, focus on goals, or stay positive in challenging times.
- Demonstrate how you get help or information if you cannot answer your children’s financial questions or if you are working to improve your own financial well-being.
Activities that support the development of positive financial attitudes, habits, and shortcuts include:

- **CONVERSATIONS**
  Think out loud while you’re banking, shopping, paying bills, or doing other financial activities.

- **PLANNING ACTIVITIES**
  Involve your children in planning shopping lists, meals special events or activities, and family trips.

- **GAMES**
  Play board games that are based on financial, career, and other life choices.

- **READING**
  Read to or with your children, ask them questions about the stories, and talk about how the messages might relate to their life.

- **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
  Allow your children to make small money decisions or help you with decisions.

Tips that can help

Keep in mind that you’re teaching about money, on purpose or not. Your children are constantly watching and listening, so they might absorb more than you think. When you shop for a bargain, or splurge on a treat, or plan a special occasion, you’re showing your kids how you think about money.

Don’t worry too much about things you don’t know.

Don’t feel confident about money matters? You’re in good company. Most people don’t. And that’s okay. Every day, you excel at something your children need to learn—whether it’s managing your time between work and home, saving money when you shop, or planning for a future event.

Try this: Think out loud.

From your actions, your children often draw their own conclusions—and sometimes they might not be what you intended! When you think out loud, you clarify what you’re doing and why. Try getting into the habit of thinking out loud during your day-to-day money and time management, so your kids can follow along.
STEM TO GO!
AT HOME LEARNING KITS

EXPLORE CIRCUITS, ENGINEERING, ENERGY, SPACE AND MORE.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) kits are geared toward children (4 to 12 years old) along with their caregivers and teachers. Each kit contains a nonfiction book and two corresponding hands-on learning activities.
Trouble searching the catalogue?

Need help finding a book’s AR level?

Try these steps!

First, visit our website, PoplarBluff.org. Use the search bar in the top right corner to type a keyword, title, or author and press enter.

You’ll want to make sure the library selected is the Poplar Bluff Library District. You can also select either our Main or Ridgel branch to narrow down your search.
Next, scroll until you find the book you’re looking for. It’s quick info box shows it’s location—Main or Ridgel, it’s shelving location—where it’s found in the library, and it’s status—available or unavailable.

Then, click on the book’s title. This will take you to the book’s main information page. To find the book’s Lexile number and Accelerated Reading level, press the “More Details” button.

Scroll past the ISBN numbers until you see “Content descriptions.” The Lexile number can be found next to “Target Audience Note” and the AR level is next to “Study Program Information Note.”
7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children’s language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1. Concentrate on reading quality (it isn’t all about reading lots!)

   Don’t worry too much about the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2. Ask your child lots of questions

   All reading matters. Shared reading is about ‘reading with’, not just ‘reading to’ (even for older children). So, ask lots of ‘Wh’ questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, ‘what do you think Harry is feeling?’

3. Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read

   If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, ‘can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?’

4. Ask your child to summarise what they have read

   When you’ve finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, ‘can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?’

5. Ask your child to write about what they have read

   Write, or draw pictures, from anything you’ve read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you’ve read together.

6. Read and discuss reading with friends or family

   Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, ‘I hope the tiger doesn’t come to tea today!’

7. Maintain the motivation to read

   Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, ‘choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.’

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HELPFUL TIPS FOR RELUCTANT READERS

READ IT AGAIN AND AGAIN
Encourage your child to read familiar books. If your child wants to take the same book out of the library for the 100th time, that’s just fine. Re-reading helps build speed and accuracy. And that can help build confidence for kids who learn and think differently.

MAKE READING A FREE-TIME ACTIVITY
Try to avoid making TV the reward and reading the punishment. Remind your child there are fun things to read besides books. And set a good example for your child by spending some of your free time reading instead of watching TV — and then talking about why you enjoyed it.

TAKE YOUR TIME
When your child is sounding out an unfamiliar word, leave plenty of time to do it, and praise the effort. Treat mistakes as an opportunity for improvement. Imagine your child misreads listen as list. Try re-reading the sentence together and ask which word makes more sense. Point out the similarities between the two words and the importance of noticing the final syllable.

PICK BOOKS AT THE RIGHT LEVEL
Help your child find books that aren't too hard or too easy. Kids have better reading experiences when they read books at the right level. You can check your choices by having your child read a few pages to you. Then ask questions about what was read. If your child struggles with reading the words or retelling the story, try a different book.

LET YOUR CHILD CHOOSE
Some kids prefer nonfiction books. Some love only fantasy or graphic novels. Or maybe your child prefers audiobooks or reading things online. The important thing is to practice reading, no matter where or how it happens.

MAKE BOOKS SPECIAL
Kids who have trouble with reading may try to avoid it because it makes them feel anxious or frustrated. Try to create positive feelings around reading by making it a treat. Get your child a library card or designate special reading time for just the two of you. Give books as gifts or rewards.

LOOK FOR A SERIES OF BOOKS
Ask a librarian or a teacher for suggestions about popular book series your child might like. Reading a series of books helps kids get familiar with the tone, characters, and themes. This familiarity can make the next books in the series easier to grasp.

Laura Candler
Teaching Resources