



Reader Newsletter
November 2018

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Maggie Strube**, Volunteer Coordinator, at 314-825-8751 or maggie@readyreaders.org

Ready Readers T-Shirt Selfies!



Send us a photo of you in your Ready Readers t-shirt! We will randomly draw a name from the submitted photos to win a basket of books!

If your picture is taken with your class during one of your reading sessions, your name will be entered twice!

If you still need a Ready Readers t-shirt, please contact maggie@readyreaders.org

Need a Hand or a Fresh Set of Eyes?

By now, you've probably visited your class a few times, and you might have some questions or may be looking for some advice. Ready Readers has a Mentoring Corps of experienced Readers who love to collaborate and share ideas with Readers.

If you'd like to touch base with a member of our Mentoring Corps, please contact **Dawnita Reathaford**, Mentoring Coordinator at dawnita@readyreaders.org or **314-564-8070**.



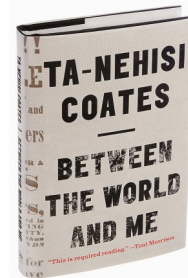
Cultural Competency

Ready Readers wants to ensure that we are all effective advocates for the children we serve, so we are going to start including this "cultural competency" corner in each Reader Newsletter.

Here we will share articles, books, videos, and other media that can help us all become better informed citizens and partners for the children, schools, and teachers in our program.

These are our picks for this edition:

Book: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates



Ted Talk: Allegories on Race and Racism by Dr. Camara Jones

[Click here to watch!](#)

TED
Ideas worth spreading

If you have any resources that you would like to share with us on this topic, please email maggie@readyreaders.org

Fall Gift Book Sneak Peek!

This year we decided to try something a little different and have Gift Book Sneak Peek Workshops each time we have a book distribution. We're hopeful that this will allow more Readers (especially those who start after the beginning of the year) to attend and gain insight into themes and topics that they can bring out in our books. We have summarized some of the information about the books for ages 2-5 from the workshop below.

Twos: *Llama Llama Nighty-Night*

This delightful book gives Readers the opportunity to make numerous **connections** between the children's **bedtime routines** and Llama Llama's. There is room for asking **open-ended** questions, noting **relatable transitions**, and making **predictions**, "What do you think Llama Llama will do next in getting ready for bed? What do you do after that?" Be sure to lead to a quiet ending as you and your students wish Llama Llama a quiet "nighty-night."

Twos: *Elmo Says*

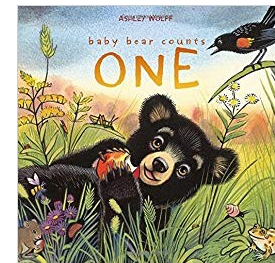
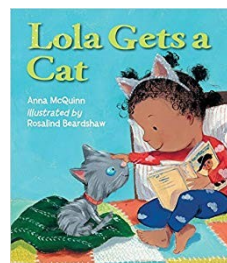
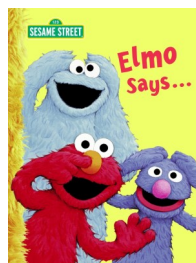
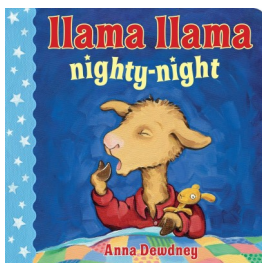
Join Elmo and his Sesame Street pals in a play on the game of "Simon Says." Kids will benefit from **hearing and identifying** the many **body parts** listed, and will love moving in all the suggested ways. (Be sure to **plan ahead** and **offer other involvement suggestions** if you don't want the children moving during the first read-through.) There are **rhymes, noises, and pretending** opportunities galore! Don't worry about presenting the book as the "Simon Says" game — twos are too young to understand that concept. Just have fun reading, exploring, and pretending together.

3-5s: *Lola Gets a Cat*

Lola is back with a perfect primer on how to adopt a pet. This story seamlessly covers **counting, responsibility, patience, planning, and the preparations** necessary to take when making a **big decision**. Talk about how Lola and her mom **research** (library, online, and talking to the adoption people) before getting a pet, as well as the **emotions** of the family and the pet itself throughout the **process**. Ask lots of open-ended questions including, "What does it mean to be ready for a pet?" Don't forget to share some of your own pet stories and photos with the kids ~ they'll love it!!

3-5s: *Baby Bear Counts One*

Join the **curious** cub as he is astonished by the **sights and sounds** experienced as he and all the **woodland creatures** get ready for **winter**. Kids will **relate** to asking an adult to decipher the unknown, and Readers can help children talk about the **similarities and differences** between their **preparations** and Baby Bear's. **Join in counting, noticing colors, sounds and noises, prediction and foreshadowing of events**. Discuss **clues** given in the pictures as to what **time of day, or season of the year** is shown on various pictures and how we know that. You can easily spend two weeks going through this book before distributing it to the children — there is that much to see and discuss! Enjoy every minute with this book!



We're always on the hunt for more individuals to add to our incredible legion of Volunteer Readers! If you know someone who might be interested in volunteering, please have them complete an application at www.readyreaders.org or email maggie@readyreaders.org.

Private Facebook Group

If you're interested in joining our Private Volunteer Reader Facebook Group but you haven't done so already, please email maggie@readyreaders.org to get set up.

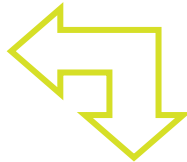
Great tips, tricks, and book/song suggestions are being shared every day and it's a fun and easy way to connect with your fellow Readers!



Theme Tuesday

Share what theme(s) you're using in your reading sessions.

Check out a couple of our weekly prompts here!



Talk it out Thursday

Is there an issue you'd like to work on or advice you need to improve your reading sessions? Share with us!



MO Early Literacy Standards

Here are two more standards (in bold), and an explanation of how you're helping children meet them during your Storytime experience even if you don't realize it!

Listens for different purposes

Children develop their language skills in a variety of ways, but the ability to listen and engage verbally is crucial. Each time that you engage in conversation with the children in your class, you are helping them work on these skills. As the children in your class grow and develop, you will notice that they are able to follow more complex instructions, engage more meaningfully with the stories they're hearing, and answer more complicated questions.

As often as you can, ask the children questions about the stories. Try to vary them by using a variety of question types: factual, open-ended, cause and effect, etc. When your children speak up with observations, **give them positive feedback!** We want for our kids to be encouraged and empowered to speak up so that they can work on these essential skills.

Attends to sounds in language (Phonological Awareness)

Our language is incredibly nuanced and can be difficult for children (or adults) to learn! Children especially need to practice discerning similar sounds to better develop their language skills. Believe it or not, singing songs and reading nursery rhymes and rhyming books all work on this ability. When children are able to see and understand that there is a pattern to how language works, they can begin to build their own foundations.

Each time that you repeat a favorite book, read stories with repeating refrains, or read rhyming books (even *Pete the Cat* 😊), you are helping your children gather the tools they need. In addition to your reading, you can also work on this skill by playing "name games" with their nametags and singing lots of songs and fingerplays. Our goal at Ready Readers is to ensure that our kids are ready to learn when they get to kindergarten and to do that we need your help!

If you don't do so already, please "like" us on Facebook (**Ready Readers**) and follow us on Twitter (**@ReadyReadersStL**)!

