

# Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

April 2006

North Middle School  
Dianne Tilson, Principal

## Book Picks



### ■ *Locomotion*

Locomotion lost his parents when he was seven. After his teacher tells him he's good at writing poetry, he uses his talent to tell his life's story. Written in short verse by Jacqueline Woodson.

### ■ *Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics*

Sports lovers will speed through this history of the Summer Olympics. Sue Macy's book takes readers from the 1800s to the present day with beautiful photographs and interesting facts.



### ■ *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse, must move from her home, but her youngest son is very ill. Find out what happens when she asks for help from the unusually intelligent rats who live under the rosebush. Robert C. O'Brien's book is a Newbery Medal winner. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Out from Boneville*

When Fone, Phoney, and Smiley Bone are kicked out of Boneville, they embark on a treacherous journey. This graphic novel by Jeff Smith will grab even reluctant readers with a combination of drawings and humor.

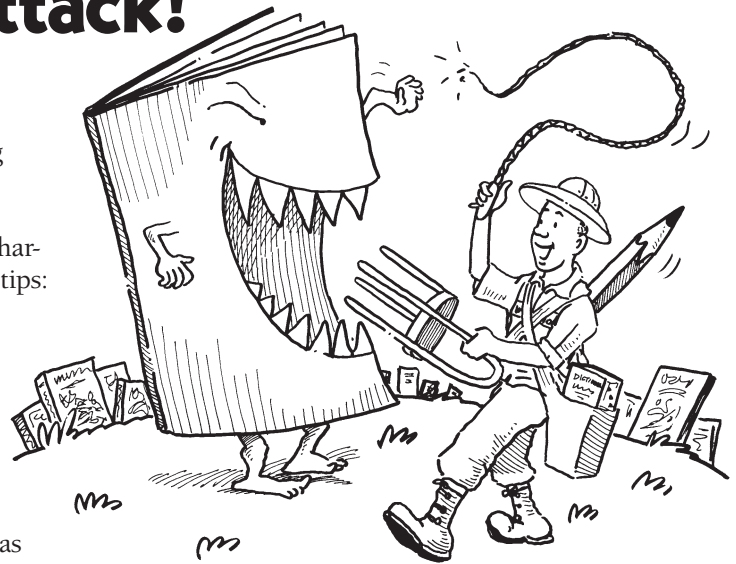


## Word attack!

New words don't have to get in the way of your child's reading comprehension. Show him how to decipher unfamiliar words by sharing these word-attack tips:

- 1 One of the first steps to figuring out the meaning of a word is to look at the whole sentence or passage. *Example:* "Because the damage to the bicycle wheel was *irreversible*, John knew he would have to buy a new one." Since John needs to replace the wheel, "irreversible" may mean "something that can't be repaired."
- 2 If you still can't guess the meaning, break the word into parts. Start by removing prefixes and suffixes. For "irreversible," take off the prefix "ir" and the suffix "ible." That leaves the root word "reverse," which means "to go backward" or "to undo." "Ir" means "not," and "ible" means "able to," so "irreversible" might mean "not able to undo."
- 3 Try your guess in the passage to see if it makes sense: "Because the damage to the bicycle wheel *couldn't be undone*..."
- 4 Finally, if your guess doesn't make sense, or to be sure you understand the meaning, make a note to look up the word when you've finished reading.

*Hint:* If a word's meaning is not necessary to understanding the passage, suggest that your youngster read on without stopping. That way, he won't get bogged down or frustrated. ■



## Perfect proofreading

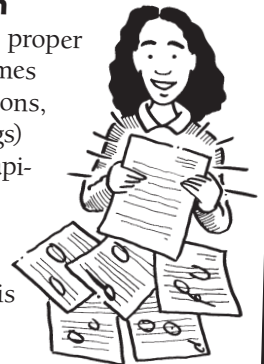
The last step to any writing is a careful reading to correct mistakes. These reminders can help your youngster create a perfect paper.

### Spelling

Use a spell-checker or a dictionary or ask an adult to double-check any words that are questionable. Keep in mind that some words sound the same but are spelled differently (to, two, too). A computer spell-check won't catch these, so writers must read carefully.

### Capitalization

Be sure that proper names (the names of specific persons, places, or things) begin with a capital letter. Also, check that the first word in every sentence is capitalized. ■



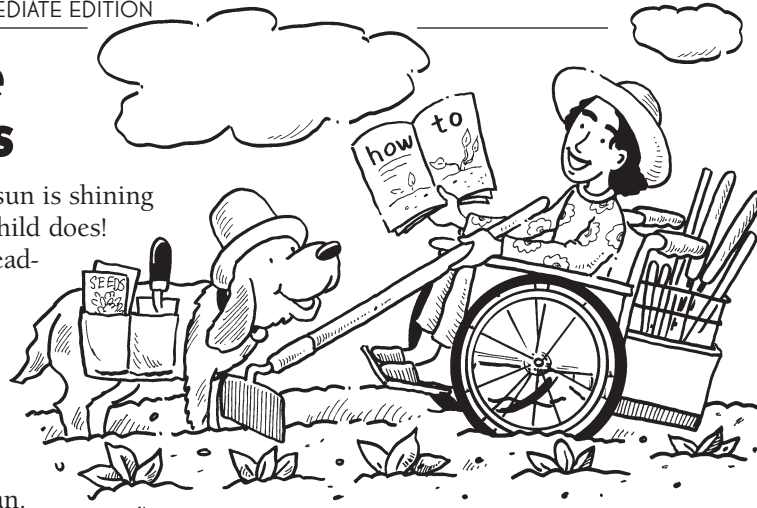
# Reading in the great outdoors

Who wants to read when the sun is shining and the birds are singing? Your child does! Here are several ideas for tying reading to favorite outdoor activities.

**Get moving.** Physical exercise promotes growing minds and bodies and inspires great reading. Check out sports magazines, articles, fact books, or fiction to excite every sports fan.

*Idea: And Nobody Got Hurt! The World's Weirdest, Wackiest True Sports Stories* by Len Berman.

**Learn something new.** Use reading to build on your youngster's outdoor interests. Look for children's books



on everything from gardening and kite flying to campfire cooking and building a backyard fort. *Idea: Roots, Shoots, Buckets, & Boots* by Sharon Lovejoy.

**Make a memory.** Extend reading with personal writing. Encourage your child to keep a journal where she can write down her outdoor adventures or create

imaginary ones. *Idea: A Kid's Spring EcoJournal: With Nature Activities for Exploring the Season* by Toni Albert. 📖



## Listen closely

**Q** My daughter often seems to misunderstand the teacher's instructions. How can I help her learn to listen more carefully?



**A** Listening is an important tool that all students need for clearly understanding classroom instructions like project directions and due dates. You can help your child practice listening skills with this simple game.

Find a short passage to read aloud, such as an article from the newspaper about a school event. Tell your daughter to listen as you read the article. Then, read it again, but this time, challenge her to listen for three changes. For example, you could change the school name, a date, and the name of a person. Your daughter's listening muscles are sure to get a workout! 📖

## Parent 2 Parent

### Practice makes perfect

My son Cole improved by leaps and bounds in his reading ability this year, and it showed in all his subjects. I don't want him to slip behind over the summer, so I decided to ask his teacher for suggestions.

Cole's teacher gave me a list of books my son might enjoy reading for fun during the break. She also told me about some of the subjects he will be studying next year, including earth science and U.S. history.

Cole was thrilled with the book list. We made a plan to visit the library as soon as school was out so he could check out several books. And I've asked him to help me plan a few day trips to local historic sites. He has already begun reading the tourist brochures I picked up. Cole's summer will be full of fun—and fun reading practice! 📖



## Other Picks

### MAGAZINES

#### ■ Time for Kids

The World Report edition

of this popular magazine keeps children ages 9–13 informed about the world around them. Topics like “The Teen in Town Hall” and “The Tarantulas Are Coming” will prompt even reluctant readers to thumb through these pages. 877-747-1057, [www.timeforkids.com](http://www.timeforkids.com)



#### ■ Cobblestone

Dive into history by reading original papers from the past and seeing old photos and art. Each themed issue gets kids engaged in history with bright graphics and activities. 800-821-0115

### WEB SITES

#### ■ KidsHealth

Do I weigh too much? What's botulism? From keeping healthy, fit, and safe to handling tough situations like divorce, peer pressure, and bullies, kids will find the answers at this Web site. (Spanish version available.) <http://kidshealth.org/kid>

#### ■ Space Place

This NASA Web site answers a curious child's questions about the mystery and technology of space. There's everything from downloadable space calendars and coloring books to projects like the “Blame El Niño Pudding” recipe. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov>



## 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.

3035 Valley Avenue, Suite 103, Winchester, VA 22601

540-723-0322 • [rfeustomer@aspenpublishers.com](mailto:rfeustomer@aspenpublishers.com)

[www.rfeonline.com](http://www.rfeonline.com)

ISSN 1540-5583