

Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

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Queen of Angels Catholic School

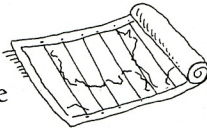


Book Picks

■ *The Man Who Made Time Travel*

Kathryn

Lasky blends history, science, and biography to tell the true story of clock maker John Harrison. After a shipwreck killed 2,000 men, Harrison dedicated his life to solving the mystery of measuring longitude to keep sailors from becoming lost at sea.



■ *Trauma Queen*

Thirteen-year-old Marigold wants to go to school, make friends and, most of all, avoid embarrassment. That's hard to do with the unusual way her mother teaches the drama class at her new school. A hilarious look at mother-daughter relationships by Barbara Dee.

■ *The Batboy*

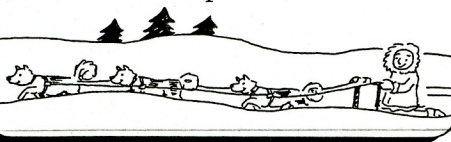


In this novel by sportswriter Mike Lupica, Brian loves baseball and is thrilled with his summer job as a major league batboy. But he must deal with disappointment both on and off the field—his favorite player is rude to him, and his father has disappeared from his life.

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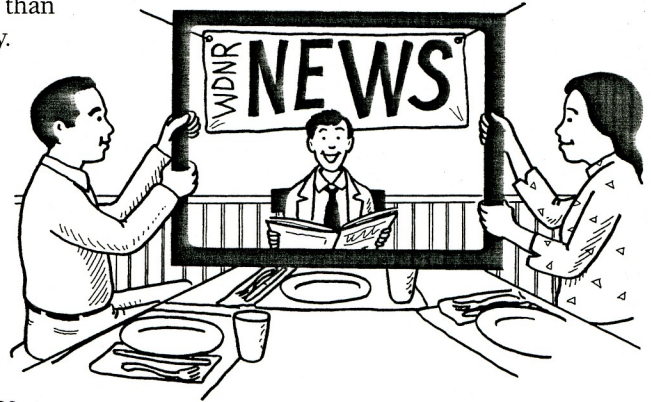
■ *Black Star, Bright Dawn*

Girls don't usually compete in the Iditarod, a world-famous dog-sled race in Alaska. But when Bright Dawn's father is injured, she takes his place. She'll have to face wild animals, extreme weather, and her own fear to complete the race. A survival tale by Scott O'Dell. (Also available in Spanish.)



Reading fluently

There is more to fluency than just reading aloud smoothly. A youngster who is fluent understands the story or information he's reading. He knows when he needs to slow down or when he should go back to clear up confusion. Try these strategies to build your child's reading skills.



Read like a newscaster.

Help your youngster practice reading aloud at a steady, comfortable pace. To see what this sounds like, watch a newscast together. Then, suggest that he pretend to be a TV news anchor. He can choose something (story, joke, comic strip) to read at the dinner table in his best reporter's voice. To be sure that he understands what he's reading, have him comment on it, just like a news anchor might. For example, he might say, "Wow! That ending sure was a surprise."

Read like a bike racer. How is silent reading like racing? The rider speeds along

while the road is smooth but slows down for bumps and curves. The same is true when your child reads to himself. Encourage him to go quickly when everything makes sense but to put on the brakes when it doesn't.

Read like a scientist. Scientists take time to look closely at their data. When your youngster reads challenging material, he can act like he's a scientist in search of answers. He might need to spend extra time on a difficult section or read it several times. Let him know that it's okay to put a paragraph "under the microscope" and examine difficult words or new concepts until he understands them. ■

A writer's notebook

How can a simple notebook help your child become more creative? It can offer her a special place to collect story ideas. Here are some entries she might try:

- List treasured possessions (ice-skating medal, family quilt) or favorite places (local waterfall, Grandmother's house) to build stories around.

- Write descriptions of friends, family members, and other people you admire (celebrities, historical figures). You can use them as characters in future stories.

- Choose a few favorite books and briefly jot down ideas for prequels or sequels.

- Record notes about vivid or interesting dreams you have. If you don't remember details, fill in the gaps with your imagination. ■



