

Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 2:
Storytelling: When! Why! How!

www.WordsThatCook.org

About Words That Cook!

Words That Cook! is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower parents and educators to inspire and motivate children. Our products and services include educational television programming and DVDs, Web resources, accredited courseware and training, and family literacy publications.

About Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

Originating as a 13-part series broadcast on select PBS affiliates and on public access cable stations nationwide, [Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books](#) is the winner of the *International Reading Association 2005 Broadcast Media Award for Television* and is now available in DVD format.

This series celebrates the joy of reading, the art of writing, the wonder of storytelling and the magic of wordplay through a combination of interviews and live action spiced up with animated fun.

Professionals, experts, parents and children model and discuss enjoyable and practical techniques for enriching literacy experiences. Designed for educators and parents of children ages 0-12, each DVD includes an original 30-minute episode, comprised of five or six related segments, plus bonus guest material and messages from the executive producers.

About this Viewing & Workshop Guide

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of the DVD, whether you are nurturing family literacy in your home, center or school.

With the guide, you can review the many family literacy suggestions presented throughout the show, read summaries of recommended books and engage in suggested activities.

If you are a professional planning workshops for others, you'll find helpful show overview and summary information as well as appropriate discussion prompts for both parent workshops and professional staff development.

The grade levels specified for each DVD chapter and extra indicate the grades to which the topics and modeled strategies apply. When children are featured, the *italicized* grade level indicates the range into which those children fall. If other grade levels are also listed, the topics and modeled strategies are appropriate for these grades as well.

By watching, discussing and using the strategies modeled in the show, we hope you and your family, or the families you serve, will be empowered to create dynamic and exciting reading and writing experiences for children.

Summary of Show 2: Storytelling: When! Why! How!

The stories we tell serve many purposes – some entertain and amuse us, others teach us valuable lessons. This show's guests use cultural icons, songs, gestures, different languages, voices and noisy words in their stories, captivating their audience and giving you concrete examples of effective storytelling techniques.

Show 2 Outline

Show Intro (length – 1:47)

In the Words that *Cook!* virtual kitchen, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Storytelling: When! How! Why!*

Chapter 1: Storytelling in a Family's First Language (length – :39)

Guest(s): Veronica Vera, English Major, Wellesley College

Location: Wellesley College

Grade Level(s): Infant/Toddler, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten – Grade 2

Topic(s): growing up in a Spanish-speaking home; hearing stories from Latino cultures told in Spanish; connecting stories told in Spanish with the English language; impact of bilingual environments on literacy skills development

Recipes for Success™:

Share stories in your first language

Chapter 2: Bilingual Reading Aloud and Storytelling (length – 5:27)

Guest(s): Melanie Kerr, Literacy through the Arts Teacher

Location: Mattahunt School

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; *Kindergarten – Grade 2*; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): using bilingual and multicultural books to help children appreciate and experience different cultures; adults overcoming fears about storytelling; sharing favorite and familiar stories; combining reading aloud and storytelling; creating excitement around reading aloud and storytelling

Modeled Strategies: holding books outward for groups of children to see as you read; pausing when reading aloud to point out and discuss illustrations; telling stories based on bilingual multicultural books; singing refrains and songs in stories; enabling children to follow along and participate in group settings by printing out refrains and songs on chart paper; making a familiar book spring to life with storytelling, i.e. bringing the story off the page by ad libbing and incorporating character voices, gestures, sound effects and song

Book(s): *Sing, Little Sack!* *¡Canta, Saquito!* by Nina Jaffe

Recipes for Success:

Read stories from other cultures

Remember you have an eager audience

Let the story become part of you

Don't be afraid to ad lib and share the excitement

Read for long or short periods

Chapter 3: Playing with “Noisy Words” (length – 1:11)

Guest(s): Laurie Joy Haas, Words that *Cook!* Executive Producer, with Chip the Cookie-Bookie Bear™

Location: Morse Institute Library Children’s Room

Grade Level(s): Infant/Toddler, Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

Topic(s): importance of noisy words or onomatopoeia in children’s play and storytelling; engaging children in non-competitive literacy games

Book(s): *Read it Aloud! A parent’s guide to sharing books with young children* by Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas

Recipes for Success:

Make up stories around noisy words

Chapter 4: Storytelling to Teach Lessons (length – 1:59)

Guest(s): Mared Alicea-Westort, Director of Multicultural Programs, Wellesley College

Location: Wellesley College

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): vital role grandparents can play in children’s literacy development; using storytelling to teach lessons; using cultural icons or well-known characters as the basis for telling stories

Book(s): *Isla* by Arthur Dorros (in chapter introduction); *Juan Bobo Goes to Work* by Marisa Montes

Recipes for Success:

Use stories to guide behavior

Use characters as examples

Chapter 5: Multicultural Storytelling (length – 12:17)

Guest(s): Eshu Bumpus and Motoko, International Storytellers

Location: Studio

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; *Kindergarten – Grade 2*; *Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): importance of trouble or conflict in stories; ideas for getting started with storytelling; responsibility of storytellers; modifying stories to fit your child's emotional level; relaxing when storytelling; using character voices; making storytelling interactive; academic and social impact of storytelling, reading and writing; building vocabulary; playing with language; addressing moral issues and values through stories

Modeled Strategies: setting the tone for storytelling by wearing clothing that reflects the culture from which the story originates; asking questions of audience when storytelling; enunciating and making eye contact when storytelling; pausing during storytelling to let audience supply words or phrases; incorporating song, character voices, facial expressions, gestures, humor and more to engage children in storytelling

Book(s): *The People Could Fly: Black American Folktales* by Virginia Hamilton; *The Shining Princess and Other Japanese Legends* by Eric Quayle

Recipes for Success:

Introduce trouble

Have a character do what is forbidden

Try it – everyone is a storyteller

Read, read, read

Read stories ahead of time

Make stories your own

Tailor stories to your child's emotional level

Relax, let yourself go

Let kids help with voices

Help build your child's vocabulary

Play and have fun with language

Introduce morality through stories

Show Recap/Close (length – 1:57)

Hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard review selected Recipes for Success and present the Recommended Book List.

Extra 1: A Word from Our Producers (length – 7:13)

Guest(s): Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producers

Topic(s): turning books into storytelling, using storytelling to teach lessons, sharing traditional tales from different cultures through storytelling; storytelling techniques; Wellesley College interviews; the Cookie-Bookie Bears; Jim Trelease; keeping stories fresh; active participation of children in stories; creating a bond through storytelling and reading together; the Words that Cook! Recommended Booklist and Potluck of Fun™

Extra 2: More with Eshu & Motoko – “A Japanese Folktale” (length – 13:12)

Guest(s): Eshu Bumpus and Motoko, International Storytellers

Grade Level(s): Pre-Kindergarten; *Kindergarten – Grade 2*; *Grades 3 – 6*

Topic(s): introducing and telling a traditional Japanese tale: “Water of Life”

Modeled Strategies: asking questions of audience when storytelling; teaching phrases and songs from other languages that will be part of stories; guiding audience participation with creative cues; using musical instruments in storytelling; engaging children in saying and singing story phrases and names in other languages; incorporating song, other languages, character voices, facial expressions, gestures, humor and more to engage children in storytelling

Extra 3: More with Eshu & Motoko – “Adolescent Endings” (length – 2:19)

Guest(s): Eshu Bumpus and Motoko, International Storytellers

Grade Level(s): Grades 3 – 6

Topic(s): adjusting storytelling as children grow; letting story characters learn a lesson

Books discussed/mentioned: *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

Extra 4: More with Eshu & Motoko – “Adding Music” (length – :44)

Guest(s): Eshu Bumpus and Motoko, International Storytellers

Grade Level(s): All Levels

Topic(s): incorporating music into storytelling

Extra 5: More with Eshu & Motoko – “Taping a Story” (length – 1:15)

Guest(s): Eshu Bumpus and Motoko, International Storytellers

Grade Level(s): All Levels

Topic(s): importance of maintaining family storytelling and read-aloud routines; recording stories for children

Show 2 Recommended Book List

For Ages 0 to 3:

On Mother's Lap

Written by Ann Herbert Scott

Illustrated by Glo Coalson

A little Eskimo boy delights in his mother's warmth and love as he sits on her lap rocking back and forth. He decides to gather his playthings one-by-one – even his puppy – and return to the rocking chair to pile everything and himself back onto Mother. Suddenly, his baby sister begins to cry, and the little boy insists that there simply isn't any room for her. Mother disagrees and proves that "there is always room on Mother's lap." This delightful story captures the tenderness of a universal childhood experience and includes an important lesson about sharing a mother's love – and her lap – with a new baby sibling.

Sleep Rhymes Around the World

Edited by Jane Yolen

Illustrated by Maria Battaglia, Jan Cerny, Mustafa Delioglu, Morella Fuenmayor, Mirajudin Ghawsi, Feerozeh Golmohammadi, Margaret D. Jones, David Kanietakeron, Frane Lessac, Kristiina Louhi, Kim Seon Mee, Cyd Moore, Charles Onyekwere Ohu, Juan Alvarez O'Neill, Maria Pechena, Simon S.K. Sagala-Mulindwa, Janko Testen and Chewun Wisasa

More than 20 lullaby rhymes from 17 countries are gathered in this book, including selections from Afghanistan, Czech Republic, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey and Venezuela. With a few exceptions, each rhyme is presented in its native language accompanied by an English translation. The lullabies from non-Roman alphabet based languages, such as Korean, appear with phonetic translations (or transliterations) "so you can 'hear' how these rhymes sound." An artist from the country of origin beautifully illustrates each poem or song. These vibrant and stunning illustrations convey the universal theme of bedtime comfort with a distinct and rich cultural flavor.

For Ages 3 to 6:

Epossumondas

Written by Colleen Salley

Illustrated by Janet Stevens

This story puts a new spin on the timeless Southern tale of a "noodlehead" who interprets everything he is told far too literally. The silly and lovable possum protagonist repeatedly tries (and fails) to achieve the common sense that seems to come so easily to others. While his mama tries to set him straight about how to bring home various treats from his auntie, this "sweet little patootie" can't seem to get anything right. But you're in for a surprise – Epossumondas just might be smarter than he lets on.

Tikki Tikki Tembo

Retold by Arlene Mosel

Illustrated by Blair Lent

In this classic retelling of a traditional Chinese folktale, we discover the evolution of one of this culture's customs for naming sons. In ancient times, first-born sons were given very long and respectable names, while second-born sons were given short, insignificant names. Such was the case in one mountain village family: the second-born son was named Chang, while the first-born son was named Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo. When the first-born son falls into a well and his little brother has to get help, that beautifully long name gets in the way and makes a dangerous situation even more treacherous – forever changing the practice of naming sons.

For Ages 6 to 9:

Flossie & the Fox

Written by Patricia C. McKissack

Illustrated by Rachel Isadora

Usually it's the sly and wily fox that outsmarts other characters in stories, but not in this one! Big Mama sends young Flossie Finley on an errand to help neighbors whose chicken coop has been raided by a fox. Big Mama warns Flossie to steer clear of the crafty creature, but Flossie realizes she's never even seen a fox. When she encounters a strange creature that tries to convince her he is a fox, this feisty little girl "outfoxes" him as she conquers fear, uses quick thinking and observation and completes the task she has set out to do. This story provides a timeless lesson in ingenuity, attitude and observation infused with the colorful dialect of the rural South.

The Mysterious Tadpole (25th Anniversary Edition)

Written and illustrated by Steven Kellogg

This tale combines fantasy, adventure and hilarity as a young boy faces the challenges of a unique new pet. Louis's Uncle McAllister gives him a tadpole straight from Scotland for his birthday. Louis feeds Alphonse a diet of cheeseburgers, and it soon becomes obvious that this is no ordinary "tadpole." Louis struggles to keep up with his ever-growing pet as he gets too big for his jar, the sink and even the bathtub. When Alphonse reaches epic proportions, a call to Uncle McAllister reveals that his origins might be the key to his seemingly endless growth.

Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa

Told and illustrated by Gerald McDermott

The witty and cunning Zomo is known, not for his strength or size, but for his ingenuity. Still, Zomo believes his cleverness is not enough. He implores Sky God to give him wisdom, and Sky God agrees provided Zomo accomplishes three seemingly impossible tasks. Fueled by his uniquely resourceful and irrepressible nature, Zomo sets out to prove his worthiness. Will he be able to fulfill his mission?

The illustrations, in vivid colors and geometric shapes inspired by West African textiles, make this tale spring to life. Even the clothing worn by Zomo – a dashiki and cap – reflect the culture from which the character originates. Children and adults alike will be delighted by this charismatic rabbit and by the story's unexpected ending.

For Ages 9 to 12:

King Midas: The Golden Touch

Retold and illustrated by Demi

In Greek mythology, the gods and goddesses inhabit and control elements of nature like the sun, the oceans and even lightning. The people of ancient Greece routinely pray to these deities for blessings and support as well as to express gratitude. King Midas, however, has no use for prayer and little to no respect for the gods and goddesses. When the king unwittingly does a favor for Dionysus, "the god of feasting and merriment," he is granted one wish. Foolishly and greedily, he wishes for everything he touches to turn to gold. This wish backfires into more of a curse and when King Midas is mercifully relieved of his golden touch, he finally changes his ways. Lavish watercolor and ink illustrations are embellished with gold leaf, making for a visually stunning presentation of a timeless story about what is really valuable in life.

The Nightingale

Retold by Stephen Mitchell

Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

The Emperor of China is beloved by his people and surrounded by all the material riches and comforts of the world. When he discovers that a remarkable nightingale with a celebrated song exists somewhere in his Empire, he orders his attendants to find her and bring her to the palace straight away. The nightingale graciously agrees to come to the palace and sing for the Emperor. Her song so enchants him that he commands her to remain in the palace. Soon after, a gift of a mechanical gold and bejeweled nightingale arrives, and the Emperor foolishly falls for the glamour of the gift over the beauty and preciousness of the real bird. But when he is struck with a serious illness, the Emperor learns some crucial lessons about freedom, possession and the value of the authenticity over high-priced imitation.

Sinbad: From the Tales of the Thousand and One Nights

Retold and illustrated by Ludmila Zeman

In this introductory foray into the epic tales of Sinbad the Sailor, we meet Scheherazade and hear some of the wonderful stories of adventure she told to the King, keeping him entranced so her life would be spared. This book entices readers with visions of island-sized whales, elephant-carrying birds and a snake-filled valley of priceless diamonds. Each page reveals artwork that conveys the feel and style of Persian rugs with rich detail and golden hues. An author's note provides background on the stories and information on the author's research. It also invitingly hints at more fantastic voyages beyond the scope of this volume.

For Parents:

Entertaining & Educating Babies & Toddlers (Usborne Parents' Guides series)

Written by Robyn Gee and Susan Meredith

A concisely written handbook for parents of children from birth to 5 years old, this guide contains a wealth of information arranged in short chapters that don't intimidate. Chapter headings include Things to Feel and Hold, Imitating and Pretending and Music, Songs and Rhymes. A comprehensive chart provides the Guide to Stages of Development for children from birth to two-and-a-half years old. This chart summarizes development in terms of general physical factors as well as specific visual, manual, verbal, and auditory milestones and suggests toys and activities related to each. In fact, the entire book is packed with hundreds of play and activity ideas to support your child's growth. You will also find more than 20 songs and rhymes with actions for parents and children to do together. This book is extremely user-friendly, with many small and charming illustrations that clarify concepts.

Read it Aloud! A parent's guide to sharing books with young children

Written by Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas

Read it Aloud! joyfully shows parents, teachers, librarians, volunteer readers and anyone who reads with children how to use and expand upon children's books to spark communication, growth and wonder. With chapters like Getting Comfortable with Your Voice, The Noisy Alphabet and Reading Gymnastics for Pre-K and K, this book encourages a lively and playful approach to reading aloud and wordplay – an approach that will fuel exciting, inspirational and imaginative experiences for you and your child to share and to treasure. You will discover countless easy-to-apply techniques and strategies for bringing books to life and creating an appetite for reading. Non-competitive Win-Win Word Games ensure further enjoyment and learning. The tone and text are welcoming and accessible, as is the presentation of the information itself.

Suggested Literacy Activities

Jump into the world of storytelling with your children. You don't need to be an expert when it comes to telling and sharing stories with your own family and friends, or with your students. The priceless rewards will be well worth any initial nervousness or self-consciousness you might feel, however, there are practical issues you'll need to address. Perhaps the biggest question that faces would-be storytellers is: Where do I begin? Two practical answers are: your library and the Internet.

At most libraries, there is a particular section to turn to for collections of folktales, fairy tales, legends and myths from all over the world: section 398.2. Typically, you will find 398.2 sections in both the adult and children's collections. So go ahead and explore these books to find those stories that speak to you and your children, that cry out: "Tell me! Tell me!"

While there are a multitude of Web sites that address storytelling, one in particular stands out for its straightforward presentation and quality of information: Story Arts (www.storyarts.org), created by professional storyteller and author Heather Forest. The Storytelling in the Classroom section is fabulous not just for teachers, but for other professionals and parents, too. It examines Why Storytelling? – pinpointing what storytelling does for children's academic and social success – and links to other vital categories like Retelling Folktales, Storytelling Lesson Plans and Activities, Story Library and more. This site actually provides you with more than 35 brief, ready-to-tell stories from a variety of cultures, as well as 20 activities to initiate storytelling in your school, center, library or home.

Series books and books with recurring characters can not only be great reads, but also terrific resources to inspire storytelling. For Kindergartners through 2nd graders, check out: *Lyle the Crocodile* books by Bernard Waber and *Alexander* books by Judith Viorst. For 2nd through 4th graders, try: *Magic Treehouse* books by Mary Pope Osborne, *Henry and Mudge* books by Cynthia Rylant and *Horrible Harry* books by Suzy Kline. For children in middle-school to junior high, turn to: J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books, Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events* books and Gary Paulsen's Brian Robeson books. This can also work with books that repeatedly follow a specific plot pattern like the Laura Joffe Numeroff *If You Give ... / If You Take ...* books.

When your family or classroom has read such books to the point where you feel like you know the characters, try spinning your own tales about them. Brainstorm ideas for different settings and circumstances into which you will place one or more familiar characters. Choose one setting and plot from your ideas and run with it! You can simply begin to create the story orally, taking turns doing the telling for a specified time or number of sentences. You can also individually write the story, memorize it and return to tell it to the whole family or class. There are any number of ways to put this premise into action: do what works best for you and your children.

Additional Words That Cook Resources

Words That Cook develops resources for professionals and parents that help to motivate and inspire children to learn and to love reading, writing, storytelling and wordplay. At our Web site (www.WordsThatCook.org) under Free Resources, you will find valuable information derived from the television series, including activity and additional reading ideas connected to each recommended book. Also at the Marketplace of our site, you can learn more about our other literacy-related products and services.

For Professionals

Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for teacher/staff workshops

Discuss familiar children's stories and how they can be tailored to various developmental and emotional levels.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Separate into small groups of participants. Have each group choose a theme based on a desired behavior within the classroom (e.g. sharing, using "walking feet" and "indoor voices") that can be addressed through story. Discuss and create a story they could tell in their classrooms to encourage the desired behavior. Share the stories with the whole group.

Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

Share any stories or favorite books from your childhood. Discuss why you believe you remember these stories and books as your favorites.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Either in small groups or as a whole, choose a value or life lesson that can be addressed through story. Discuss and create a story that encourages the chosen value or lesson. Share the stories with the whole group.

When working with ESL/ELL families, help them to understand the value of learning and applying literacy strategies in their primary language. Encourage them to also apply strategies in English if it is comfortable and if the adult has developed the English language skills to sufficiently challenge their child.

Words That Cook Staff

Monty Haas, COO & Executive Producer

Laurie Haas, CEO & Executive Producer

Stuart Pologe, Director of Finance & Marketing

Todd DeBonis, Senior Producer, Director & Editor-In-Chief

Susan Minichiello, M.Ed., Director of Course Development & Associate Producer

Words That Cook Educational Consultants

Dr. Miriam Marecek, Literacy & Children's Literature Expert

Dr. Jeanne DeTemple, Early Literacy & ESL/ELL Expert

Dr. Sharon A. Edwards, Author & Reading, Writing & Curriculum Specialist

Dr. Robert W. Maloy, Author & Professor – University of Massachusetts, Amherst, School of Education

Dr. Diane Edwards, Early Childhood Program Manager – Lake Sumter Community College

Reverend Patricia A. Walton, Diversity & Multiculturalism Specialist

Charlene Sontag Eng, Elementary & Outdoor Education Specialist

Please feel free to contact us for more information about our DVD series and other products and services.

Phone: 888-875-5368

E-mail: info@WordsThatCook.org

Mailing Address: Box 411 Natick, MA 01760

Web site: www.WordsThatCook.org

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