

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

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 4:  
Putting Life into Words

[www.WordsThatCook.org](http://www.WordsThatCook.org)

## About Words That Cook, LLC

Words That Cook, LLC 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 4: Putting Life into Words

Finding the fun of reading and writing can be a challenge. By incorporating puppets and voices, making up songs, playing word games and creating poems, this show's guests prove that words can excite children, that poetry isn't just for grownups and that it's okay (even encouraged) for adults to let go and be silly.

### Show 4 Outline

#### Show Intro (length - 1:42)

In the Words that *Cook!* virtual kitchen, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Putting Life into Words*.

**Book(s):** *Poplollies and Bellibones: A Celebration of Lost Words* by Susan Kelz Sperling

#### Chapter 1: Bringing Books to Life (length - 6:56)

**Guest(s):** Audrey Leppanen, Children's Librarian, Boston Public Library, Washington Village Branch

**Location:** South Boston Neighborhood House

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

**Topic(s):** using character voices when reading aloud; enjoying reading aloud; holding children's attention when reading aloud; finding the right time for reading aloud; using puppets to introduce books and teach lessons/convey themes; choosing the right puppet to represent characters in books; making puppet plays based on books and stories

**Modeled Strategies:** holding books outward for groups of children to see as you read; using character voices when reading aloud; making reading aloud an interactive experience; using puppets to introduce books and teach lessons/convey themes; letting children interact with puppets

**Book(s):** *The Leopard's Drum: An Asante Tale from West Africa* by Jessica Souhami; *Froggy Gets Dressed* by Jonathan London; *Leave Herbert Alone* by Alma Marshak Whitney

#### Recipes for Success™:

Get over feeling stupid

See voices as playful and fun

Use character voices to bring books alive

Read when your child can listen

Use puppets with books to help teach lessons

Enlarge and expand on books

Bring puppet voices back to your reading

## Chapter 2: Book-Based Vocabulary Activities (length – 2:25)

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

**Location:** Morse Institute Library Children's Room

**Grade Level(s):** Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** creating vocabulary activities and games based on books

**Modeled Strategies:** having children recall and write down words from books read aloud; re-reading books looking for and noting the correct spelling of recalled words; using character voices when reading aloud; guiding children's spelling; making book-based vocabulary lists and pronunciation guides

**Book(s):** *My Daddy and Me* by Jerry Spinelli

**Recipes for Success:**

Play reading and spelling games

## Chapter 3: Songwriting with Children (length – 3:41)

**Guest(s):** Ben Rudnick, Singer/Songwriter and Dad

**Location:** Studio

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

**Topic(s):** writing song lyrics around everyday activities and occurrences; recognizing and dignifying children's writing; indulging children's humor

**Modeled Strategies:** collaborating with children on creative projects; attending children's events; using children's suggestions, even when they are nonsense

**Recipes for Success:**

Make up songs together by putting life into words

Document and publish kids' achievements

Get kids' imaginations going

## Chapter 4: Engaging Children and Adults in Writing Poetry (length – 8:17)

**Guest(s):** Steven Ratiner, Poet

**Location:** Winthrop School and Studio

**Grade Level(s):** *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** creating opportunities for parents and children to engage in writing together as equals; becoming a good poet; correcting children’s poetry; supporting children’s poetry writing; finding time for poetry writing; basing poetry on everyday experiences; working poetry into daily routines; finding poetry to share with children

**Modeled Strategies:** using sounds to inspire writing; sharing writing in groups of children and adults; asking questions to expand on images and ideas for writing; discussing writing together; not forcing children (or adults) to share their writing; sharing reactions to poetry in the moment

### **Recipes for Success:**

Use poetry to learn together

Don't censor – Let anything happen in poetry

If child shares, examine and question honestly as peers

Let children choose when to share

Take quiet moments for yourself

Focus on moments of rich material for writing

Read one poem a night for pleasure

Find the great poets that speak to you

Look for poetry anthologies first

## Show Recap/Close (length – 2:23)

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 – 5:33)

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

**Topic(s):** overview of show guests; using character voices; the poet’s perspective; finding writing ideas in everyday life; *Read it Aloud: A parent’s guide to sharing books with young children*; *Read it Aloud! Tips, Tools & Techniques™*; engaging children in reading interactively; Audrey Leppanen; incorporating puppets into reading aloud; listening for what rings with children; helping children find their poets’ voices; Dr. Miriam Marecek’s Recommended Book List

## Extra 2: More Steven Ratiner – “Becoming a Poet” (length – 2:08)

**Guest(s):** Steven Ratiner, Poet

**Grade Level(s):** *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** recognizing your poet’s voice; practicing being a poet; encouraging children’s writing by writing with them; poetry as a life skill; using language as a tool to figure something out

**Modeled Strategies:** discussing poetry with children and parents together

### Extra 3: More Steven Ratiner – “A Poet’s Listening” (length – 3:40)

**Guest(s):** Steven Ratiner, Poet

**Grade Level(s):** *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** finding the moments and images to create poetry; “outside” and “inside” listening; the poet’s voice; not impeding creativity

**Modeled Strategies:** discussing poetry with children and parents together

### Extra 4: More Steven Ratiner – “What Do You See?” (length – 4:49)

**Guest(s):** Steven Ratiner, Poet

**Grade Level(s):** *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** using sounds to inspire writing; conveying images and emotions through poetry

**Modeled Strategies:** discussing poetry with children and parents together; setting up a poetry writing exercise; providing concrete examples of concepts being discussed

## Show 4 Recommended Book List

### For Ages 0 to 3:

#### **Sing-Along Songs (Three Books and Tape Set)**

Adapted by Nadine Bernard Westcott and Mary Ann Hoberman

Illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott

This set of three rhyming board books is packaged together with an audiotape of all three songs. *Miss Mary Mack* is adapted by Mary Ann Hoberman and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. In this whimsical version, Miss Mary Mack (all dressed in black, of course) sees an elephant jumping the fence and wants to keep him. *The Lady with the Alligator Purse* is based on a hilarious old jump rope rhyme about a baby called Tiny Tim and adapted and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Neither the doctor nor the nurse can save the day, but the lady with the alligator purse just might hold the key. *Skip to My Lou* is also adapted and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. This variation is about a boy who is left alone for a time on a farm. When his parents return, the house is a marvelous mess thanks to the barnyard animals. Each of these books/songs is lively and engaging – perfect for practicing the sounds of language through rhythm and rhyme.

#### **Pete’s a Pizza**

Written and illustrated by William Steig

What do you do when a rainy day puts your kids in a bad mood? Turn them into pizza, of course! When the rain keeps Pete from going out to play with his friends, his father gets a wacky idea for cheering him up. Carried to and placed on the kitchen table, Pete becomes a slab of dough his father tosses and kneads. Then he’s covered with oil (actually water), tomatoes (checkers) and mozzarella cheese (pieces of paper). Pete’s father sets him in the pizza oven (the couch) to cook. When Pete is returned to the kitchen table for slicing, he tries to run off, but his dad chases and soon catches him in a big hug. By this time, the sun has come out and Pete is in a much better mood as he heads outside to meet up with his friends. This delightful romp is sure to turn any frown upside down!

## For Ages 3 to 6:

### **Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles, Think of That!**

Written and illustrated by **Leo and Diane Dillon**

Through distinct gouache illustrations and bouncy rhyming text, children are introduced to Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (1878-1949), an African American tap dance pioneer and an incredible entertainer. Tall, slim and debonair, Mr. Bojangles dances his way through the streets of old New York (and the pages of this book) endearing himself to everyone he meets, from children at play to high society adults to homeless people. Rhythm and rhyme carry readers along, conveying a sense of movement and dance as does the clever technique for depicting Robinson's feet in motion. The repeating refrain – "Rap a tap tap, think of that!" – screams out for child participation. At the end of the book, a brief afterword provides some biographical information about this beloved and important celebrity.

### **A-Ticket A-Tasket**

Written by **Ella Fitzgerald**

Illustrated by **Ora Eitan**

Every child can identify with the little boy in this book who loses, or at least misplaces, something precious to him. The lyrics of this familiar song, adapted and sung by the legendary Ella Fitzgerald and arranged by Van Alexander, become the text of this book. In this case, they tell the story of a little boy who loses his "green and yellow basket" and the little girl who finds it and cruises around the city with it on her arm. The boy frets and fusses over his loss, darting from place to place in search of his cherished basket. Will he ever find it? The illustrations by Ora Eitan are imaginative and vibrant – combining gouache, cut-paper collage and computer-generated art to create a three-dimensional feel.

### **The Usborne Book of Everyday Words (Everyday Words series)**

Edited by **Felicity Brooks**

Illustrated and Designed by **Jo Litchfield**

Word-object association and vocabulary building are strongly encouraged and supported in this book. Each double-page spread places and labels more than 15 objects in a familiar setting and prompts you and your child to find certain objects. For example, "Find six cassettes in the living room" or "Find four spiders in the bedroom." Words around the edges of each page are also helpful for children who are beginning to read. At the back of the book, you'll find an alphabetical index of more than 500 words for quick searches. This index can be helpful to you in directing your child's attention to specific objects or settings and it can also help to prepare older children for using dictionaries and other reference materials.

## For Ages 6 to 9:

### **The Honest-to-Goodness Truth**

Written by **Patricia C. McKissack**

Illustrated by **Giselle Potter**

In this provocative book, **Patricia McKissack** tackles an age-old dilemma. When Libby gets caught telling a fib to her mama, she swears from that moment on, she will only speak the truth. As she keeps her promise, Libby finds that sometimes the truth has negative consequences; sometimes the truth hurts people's feelings. When the tables turn, Libby is saddened by the truth about her beloved horse and experiences first hand just how upsetting words can be. She comes to understand that while telling the truth is imperative, it's just as important to consider people's feelings and choose your words with care and sensitivity.

## **Autumblings**

Written and illustrated by Douglas Florian

Children are bound to be to be enthralled by this masterful collection of poems celebrating autumn in all its glory – falling leaves, migrating geese, Thanksgiving celebrations and apple picking. “Purple skin / And yellow pulp / Take a bite, then / Gulp / Gulp / Gulp.” Wit and whimsy infuse this collection along with irresistible wordplay like onomatopoeia, invented words (like the title itself) and rhythm and rhyme. With such exceptional verse set alongside bright yet minimalist paintings, autumn just might become your child’s favorite season! These poems are clever, funny and simply perfect for reading aloud when chilly winds begin to blow.

## **The Wonderful Happens**

Written by Cynthia Rylant

Illustrated by Coco Dowley

This lovely and metrical book will encourage you and your children to appreciate all of the little things that happen around you every day – birds flying, roses growing, bees buzzing, stars glowing – and the big things, too – you, your children, each human life. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of daily life, it’s easy to miss the marvels that surround us. Take your time reading this book and you’ll see just how much wonderful happens in each and every moment, whether we’re paying attention or not.

## **For Ages 9 to 12:**

### **The Night Has Ears: African Proverbs**

Selected and illustrated by Ashley Bryan

This collection of 26 beautifully-illustrated proverbs contains humorous, serious and wise sayings derived from African literature. Having grown up with a mother who regularly used proverbs, **Ashley Bryan** was drawn to these sayings and began searching African stories for such morsels of wisdom and wit. Each selected proverb is accompanied by a stunning stained glass-like illustration that combines human, animal and symbolic elements. And while each saying is attributed to a specific African tribe, Bryan says many were well known in a variety of tribes. It’s fun to imagine the story origins of nuggets like “A man with a cough cannot conceal himself,” “No one knows the story of tomorrow’s dawn” and “Never try to catch a black cat at night” on top of contemplating the significance of these sayings in your own life.

### **Frindle**

Written by Andrew Clements

Illustrated by Brian Selznick

Nick Allen is a sharp, creative and independent thinker whose antics nearly outsmart even himself. On his first day of fifth grade, a not-so-innocent tactic to avoid homework brings out a brilliant idea that yields both fun and unexpected celebrity. When Nick decides to coin a new word for pen – “Frindle” – a fascinating chain of events ensues. A remarkable teacher’s belief in the power of words shines throughout the entire story, as does a young man’s tenacity in seeing a creative idea successfully realized.

## For Parents:

### **The Usborne Book of Puppets**

Written by Ken Haines and Gill Harvey

Would you like to make expressive puppets with your children using simple, inexpensive materials? Sock puppets, glove puppets, finger puppets, rod puppets, mouth puppets, shadow puppets, even marionettes – all of these are included in *The Usborne Book of Puppets*. Easy-to-follow instructions using everyday materials and helpful illustrations are provided for not only the puppets, but also for a puppet theatre. You don't need to be an accomplished artist to create these fantastic puppets, ranging from a hungry hamburger to a clown to a rock star complete with aluminum foil microphone. You'll have great fun making the puppets, and then you and your children can act out your favorite stories or generate entirely new ones based on the characters you've created.

## Suggested Literacy Activities

To find great creative activity ideas for children from toddlers to 12-year-olds, check out <http://familyfun.go.com> and click on Arts & Crafts. Projects are organized into categories like Holiday & Seasonal, Crafts by Age and Quick & Easy. Also, click on the Search All Crafts link and look at the Browse by Craft Group drop-down menu for more categories such as Indoor Boredom Busters and Puppet Pals. Connect these activities and projects with books you and your children are reading. For example, when reading a book with an autumn theme or setting, follow up by making Autumn Place Mats; or when you've shared a book about an elephant or a dragon, create Sock Puppets of these animal characters and use them to retell the story in your own words.

Try creating homemade flash cards with children in preschool to second grade to help build their vocabulary. Take some time together to observe your family's kitchen, living room and backyard or parts of your classroom, school or center. In each setting, identify objects and create a card for each. You can use index cards or recipe cards, or cut scrap paper to the size you like. On one side of the card you and your child can draw a picture of the object or paste an image cut from a magazine. On the reverse of the card, write the name of the object and the setting in which you found it. Then stack the cards in a spot you and your children can easily access. Take a few minutes each day to review the cards by showing the drawing of the object to a child and asking her to tell you the name of the object and/or name places where you might find it.

Ask children ages six to 12 what impressions come to mind when they think of the different seasons – everything from holidays to changes in the weather and landscape to the types of outdoor activities they do. Expand the conversation by picking some of those seasonal features and writing descriptive phrases about them. Take those phrases and form them into poems. You might be surprised to discover that we each have a poet's voice.

To further encourage children's poetry writing in a playful way, visit the official Web site of Shel Silverstein ([www.shelsilverstein.com](http://www.shelsilverstein.com)). There is plenty to explore here including: Let's Have Some Fun with games and more "For Kids Only!" and Ideas for Teachers & Parents with activity and classroom kits as well as book and poem lists.

If a child seems intrigued by words and their origins, dictionaries and other reference information, he may be interested to know that there are a number of different kinds of dictionaries that can be found on the Internet. Check out the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and Thesaurus at [www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com). For a Biographical Dictionary, where you can find information on more than 25,000 noteworthy individuals from ancient times to the present day go to [www.s9.com](http://www.s9.com). The Internet Picture Dictionary ([www.pdictionary.com](http://www.pdictionary.com)) can be a great resource for learning the word for a particular animal, musical instrument, vegetable and more in five different languages: English, French, Italian, German and Spanish. At [www.artlex.com](http://www.artlex.com) you'll find an extensive Dictionary of Art and Visual Terminology. Images, pronunciation guides and "clickable" words that allow for cross-referencing complement the definitions. If your children are Lord of the Rings fans, check out the Tolkien Dictionary at [www.quicksilver899.com/Tolkien/Tolkien\\_Dictionary.html](http://www.quicksilver899.com/Tolkien/Tolkien_Dictionary.html). Go to [www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com](http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com) for a Math Dictionary that explains math terms in simple language with definitions and examples that often contain animation and/or interactive elements.

## 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](http://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

How could the use of a puppet aid in reading or storytelling with your age group?

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

Separate into small groups of participants. Provide each group with a word, object or image and have them write descriptive phrases about it. Create a poem based on the descriptive phrases. Share the poems with the whole group.

### Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

Have participants close their eyes as you generate sounds from one or two different sound makers. Ask participants to open their eyes and immediately jot down descriptions of the images the sound makers inspired. Ask for volunteers to share their descriptions with the group.

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

Either in small groups or as a whole, distribute supplies and have each participant create a puppet to help them read with their children. Share the puppets and ideas for use 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.*

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