

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

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 6:  
The Power of Language

[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 6: The Power of Language

Language and literacy are everywhere you look (or listen). This show's guests demonstrate that through reading aloud, learning together, playing with idioms and exploring other cultures, children and parents (including ESL/ELL parents) can find inspiration, feel empowered and forge bonds that will last a lifetime.

### Show 6 Outline

#### Show Intro (length - 2:22)

In the Words that *Cook!* virtual Center for Arts gallery, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *The Power of Language*.

#### Chapter 1: Ballet and Books (length - 3:14)

**Guest(s):** Carol Schneider-Sereda, Children's Dance Theatre Director; Sandra Walak, Mom

**Location:** The Center for Arts in Natick

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

**Topic(s):** connecting dance with stories and characters; reading about and discussing children's hobbies; learning with and from children; reading stories to stimulate creativity; exploring and acting out new vocabulary; learning idioms found in books; rereading books to glean more new vocabulary

**Modeled Strategies:** reading the story behind a dance before performing it; acting out stories; focusing on traits of characters in books; encouraging children with praise; acting out new vocabulary; explaining unfamiliar idioms found in books

**Book(s):** *Coppelia* by Margot Fonteyn

#### **Recipes for Success™:**

Choose stories with many characters

Master technical terms together

Let your child talk about what she's learning

Read and learn together

Read the story to fuel creativity

Describe new action words

Let children act out individual words

Reread to pick out more vocabulary

## Chapter 2: Youth Literacy Tutors (length – 5:05)

**Guest(s):** Caitlin Sweeney, Coordinator, Youth Literacy Tutors, Hyde Square Task Force; Maria, Deandre, Shamee, Marvin, Akeem, Gabriel, Senia, Vanessa, Stephanie – Youth Literacy Tutors

**Location:** John F. Kennedy Elementary School

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

**Topic(s):** teenagers getting involved in literacy initiatives; being a role model for younger children; participating in programs that benefit your community; recognizing the need for and the power of reading aloud to young children; using lessons from your own upbringing as impetus for affecting positive change; taking pride in tutoring younger children; benefits of being a literacy tutor; choosing books that promote active participation; connecting books with children’s interests; prereading books; illustration-based predictions; exploring new vocabulary in books; using humorous books; using character voices

**Modeled Strategies:** holding books outward for groups of children to see as you read; reading aloud with groups of children and one-on-one; reading aloud in a playful environment; getting children to actively participate in reading aloud

### Recipes for Success:

Choose “motion books” – let little kids be active

Choose what older kids can relate to

Read books to yourself first

Read the title and ask what the book is about

Show pictures and let them predict

Ask what they see in pictures and what they're about

Try some exciting, comical stories

Act stories out by changing voices

## Chapter 3: Fun with Idioms (length – 1:47)

**Guest(s):** Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producer, with Judy “Mama Bear” Reilly and Honey the Cookie-Bookie Bear™

**Location:** Words that Cook! Virtual Family Room

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

**Topic(s):** discussing the meaning of idioms

**Modeled Strategies:** having fun using idioms

### Recipes for Success:

Use and explain colorful expressions found in books

## Chapter 4: Diversity in Literacy (length – 1:45)

**Guest(s):** Caterina Del Conte, Wellesley College Student

**Location:** Wellesley College

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** growing up as a minority; reading and writing in multiple languages; instilling a passion for learning about different cultures

**Recipes for Success:**

Try to read to your child in more than one language  
Learn about other people's cultures, stories and histories

## Chapter 5: ESL/ELL Literacy Classes (length – 8:15)

**Guest(s):** Dr. Jeanne Paratore, Associate Professor of Education, Boston University; Dr. Barbara Krol-Sinclair, Director, Intergenerational Literacy Project

**Location:** The John Silber Early Learning Center at the Shurtleff School

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels (*Infant/Toddler*)

**Topic(s):** International Reading Association; involving families in literacy education; wide-ranging definition of literacy; practical ways for infusing routine activities with literacy; challenges ESL/ELL parents face; reinforcing the parent-child bond; helping children with homework; asking questions in a parent's first language; learning children's school and classroom routines; incorporating small group and paired work into literacy training; enabling ESL/ELL parents to effectively share children's literature; practicing reading aloud and discussing content in small groups or pairs; enjoying reading aloud

**Modeled Strategies:** lapsit reading aloud; singing the words of a book; dignifying and sharing ideas in class settings; providing a copy of each book used in a group training to each individual; parents practicing reading aloud and discussing content in small groups or pairs; incorporating gestures into reading aloud

**Book(s):** *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christelow; *Follow the Polar Bears* by Sonia Black; *Time to Sleep* by Denise Fleming

**Recipes for Success:**

Make reading fun  
If your child loves singing, sing the words  
Write shopping lists together  
At stores, look at words printed on boxes  
Talk about the TV programs you watch  
Help with homework to build communication  
Find a quiet, well-lighted area to study  
Provide a flat table, pencils, paper and eraser  
Be available to answer questions  
Have children ask questions in your first language  
Learn the teacher's classroom routines  
Use gestures and discuss content  
Practice reading with others and on your own

## Show Recap/Close (length – 2:54)

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 – 9:49)

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

**Topic(s):** overview of show guests; reading aloud in ESL/ELL families; teenage volunteers and role models; unexpected applications of reading; improving family communication through reading; Judith “Mama Bear” Reilly and the Cookie-Bookie Bears; Dr. Miriam Marecek’s Recommended Book List; Words that Cook! production techniques, staff and consultants; techniques and games in *Read it Aloud! A parent’s guide to sharing books with young children*; International Reading Association; NCECP; the Words That Cook Web site

**Book(s):** *Max* by Rachel Isadora

## Extra 2: More Barbara Krol-Sinclair – “Reading Tips and Strategies” (length – 2:51)

**Guest(s):** Dr. Barbara Krol-Sinclair, Director, Intergenerational Literacy Project

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** getting infants to turn pages of board books; turning off the television; finding the right time for reading aloud; having children retell stories in their own words; exploring books through illustrations and discussing what is seen; pausing when reading aloud to let children supply rhyming words and to emphasize rhythm; tracking words as you read aloud; illustration-based predictions

**Book(s):** *Here Comes the Cat* by Frank Asch and Vladimir Vagin

## Extra 3: Agencies at Work – “Empowering ESL/ELL Parents” (length – 3:34)

**Guest(s):** Dr. Jeanne Paratore, Associate Professor of Education, Boston University; Dr. Barbara Krol-Sinclair, Director, Intergenerational Literacy Project

**Target Audience:** Administrators; Educators; Program Coordinators

**Topic(s):** correlation between family reading and children’s success in school; recognizing and validating the various types of literacy at work in ESL/ELL families; family storybook reading; helping children with homework; teachers’ expectations of parents; communicating with teachers; literacy class routines; group discussion and brainstorming; incorporating small group and paired work into literacy training

## Extra 4: Agencies at Work – “Success Stories” (length – 4:04)

**Guest(s):** Dr. Jeanne Paratore, Associate Professor of Education, Boston University; Dr. Barbara Krol-Sinclair, Director, Intergenerational Literacy Project

**Target Audience:** Administrators; Educators; Program Coordinators

**Topic(s):** measuring and tracking success of a literacy program; unexpected outcomes

## Show 6 Recommended Book List

### For Ages 0 to 3:

#### **Helen Oxenbury's Little Baby Books Boxed Set**

Written and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

This series of four books comes as a miniature boxed set intended for children ages 10 months to 2 years. The books are sized ideally for tiny hands to hold. They are a lovely introduction to all of the things that babies can do as they explore their world. Each page has a single word with a bold illustration representing the word. These little books are also published separately as regular-sized board books.

##### **I Touch**

A baby strokes a beard, pats a cat and snuggles with a blanket. Illustrations demonstrate how a child interacts with a variety of objects through touch. All but one object is felt with some part of the hand; the ball is touched with the belly.

##### **I Hear**

A baby listens to a bird sing, a dog bark and a watch tick, introducing children to the sense of hearing and a range of different sounds.

##### **I See**

A baby watches a frog leap and gazes at the moon. This book shows how some objects can be played with, while others can only be admired from afar.

##### **I Can**

A baby originates his own world of wonder as he crawls, dances and stretches. With a single verb on each page, the associated illustration shows a baby performing the action, introducing children to dexterity and movement.

#### **Lunch**

Written and Illustrated by Denise Fleming

A hungry mouse nibbles and munches his way through this book, enjoying a variety of fruits and vegetables and revealing the different foods and their distinct colors. The text is rich with adjectives describing different tastes and textures. Denise Fleming's unique and vibrant pulp painting technique creates a visual feast for the eyes. Every right-hand page provides hints about the next food the mouse will devour, perfectly setting up a guessing or prediction game that can be played as you and your children read along.

### For Ages 3 to 6:

#### **The Moon in My Room**

Written and illustrated by Uri Shulevitz

A young boy revels in his own private sun, moon and stars, along with a garden and many friends, all in his little room. In his imagination, his room contains a whole world, but his most precious friend is missing. Where is Prince Bear? The little boy's world will not be complete until he finds his friend. Will he find Prince Bear? And how will he show his love when he does?

## **Market Day: A Story Told with Folk Art**

Written and designed by Lois Ehlert

With excitement and anticipation, a farming family packs up the vegetables and goods they hope to sell at the open-air market. The rhyming text describes the family's trip to the market, what they see along the way and what they encounter once they arrive. All of the images are created from handmade folk art objects and textiles collected, arranged and photographed by Lois Ehlert. A two-page reference guide at the back of the book reveals what each object is made of as well as its cultural origin. The artwork is intriguing, stunning and colorful, enchanting readers' and demanding further examination.

## **¡Pío Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes**

Selected by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy

English adaptations by Alice Schertle

Illustrated by Vivi Escrivá

For preschoolers to second-graders, here are nearly 30 bilingual rhymes that have been passed down for generations to celebrate childhood and the rich oral traditions of Latin America and the American Southwest. One page contains the text in Spanish, while the facing page has a poetic re-creation (not a translation) in English. Oral folklore can serve as a child's first encounter with literature, and these rhymes contain fragments of medieval ballads, old harvest songs, lullabies and fingerplays. The watercolor and colored pencil illustrations by Vivi Escrivá feature brilliant hues and lovely details that will fascinate and captivate your child.

## **For Ages 6 to 9:**

### **Cooper's Lesson**

Written by Sun Yung Shin

Illustrated by Kim Cogan

Cooper's Lesson explores the issues of cultural identity and language. How does a person figure out where he fits in when he is biracial or bicultural? Does he have to learn both languages? And what does it mean to be biracial, bicultural and bilingual? These and other contemporary matters are gently approached in this story, told both in English and Korean, as Cooper grows to appreciate his multicultural heritage by spending time in Mr. Lee's grocery store. Ultimately, Cooper learns that who we are is never simple, no matter what race we are or what language we speak.

### **Max**

Written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora

Max is an avid and talented baseball player. He's a triple threat on the diamond – adept at hitting, running and fielding. Every week he walks his sister to ballet class on the way to his baseball games. One day Max and his sister arrive at the dance studio too early for Max to head off to his game, so the ballet teacher asks Max if he'd like to join the class. He decides to give it a whirl and finds it challenging, but ultimately fun. Much to his surprise, Max soon discovers that ballet is great preparation for baseball.

### **Not Just Tutus**

Written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora

Not Just Tutus is comprised of two sections of short and humorous poems about ballet. Selections in "Dreams and Practice" describe children hard at work perfecting their dance steps and facing the challenges of learning routines and dealing with aching feet and sore backs. The poems in "Makeup and Lights" disclose the backstage preparations for performances and all of the things that can go wrong, like costume problems and stage fright. With a message about perseverance, this book attests that all of the hard work is worth it to experience the magic and joy of performance.



## For Ages 9 to 12:

### **J.T.**

Written by Jane Wagner

Illustrated by Gordon Parks, Jr.

J.T. Gamble, a 10-year-old boy, is headed for a lot of trouble – lying, stealing and cutting school. When he meets an injured, one-eyed alley cat, J.T. begins to change and realizes he'd rather care for the cat than listen to a stolen transistor radio. Sadly, the neighborhood bullies cause the cat's death by accident, but the local grocery store owner's gift of a kitten helps J.T. to understand the power of giving and of healing. While his choices are not always good, J.T. starts to see how he can improve them and appreciate the kindness of others in his life.

### **Esperanza Rising**

Written by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Illustrated by Joe Cepeda

Set during the Great Depression, this story touches upon issues of life and death, a woman's worth and rights, and economic and class struggles. Esperanza Ortega and her parents possess all the riches anyone could wish for, but the death of her father forces Esperanza and her mother to leave behind their fancy dresses and servants and their beautiful home in Mexico. With no money and in order to survive, they emigrate to America and go to work at a migrant farm camp in Southern California. Esperanza and Mama must face the challenges of strenuous work, acceptance within their ethnic community and serious financial struggles. In Spanish, Esperanza means hope, and that is exactly what the characters hold on to in overcoming the hardships they encounter.

## For Parents:

### **Gifted Hands**

Written by Ben Carson, M.D. with Cecil Murphey

This autobiographical book shows just how important a role parents can play in helping children reach their full potential. Imagine what it must take for a mother with only a third grade education to raise a son who grows up to attend Yale, University of Michigan Medical School and John Hopkins University; ultimately becoming one of the leading pediatric neurosurgeons in the world. In this book, Dr. Carson tells how his mother did just that. A single mother, Sonya Carson recognized the need to inspire her son who was struggling in school and had little motivation to improve. By restricting his exposure to television and setting goals for reading and writing, Sonya put her son on a path to lifetime success. Dr. Carson also describes how he overcame peer pressure, prejudice and school and hospital politics. This is a truly inspirational story for all parents!

### **100 Best Books for Children**

Written by Anita Silvey

Many of the books we hear and read as children stay with us throughout our lives – these are timeless tales that are rich in content, presentation and diversity. In this compelling guide for parents and educators, you'll learn more about what makes certain children's books stand out from the rest. Keeping the age range and plot of each book in mind, Anita Silvey relates the story behind the story of her selections, utilizing knowledge and expertise gleaned from 35 years in children's book publishing. She highlights books that meet special needs and interests, as well as classics selected by age from infancy to near teens. This book is not only informative, but also enjoyable to read.

## Suggested Literacy Activities

To find out more about what types of books infants to five-year-olds find appealing, as well as some quick tips on reading aloud, visit the Reach Out and Read Web site ([www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)). First click on About Us. Then click on Literacy Resources to find the link for Tips on Reading and Choosing Books. You can then view or download one-page sheets on Reading Tips and What Children Like in Books.

For lists of bilingual books in English and 12 foreign languages for children ages four and up, check out [www.helpmread.org](http://www.helpmread.org). Click on Children's Books and explore the Bilingual Books links for such languages as Amharic, Chinese, Somalian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Also on this site, the For Parents section provides information and tips for reading and being involved in your children's education, while the For Tutors section includes strategies for increasing family involvement as well as general tutoring tips and specialized tips for helping reluctant readers.

Idioms and other non-literal expressions can be confusing, especially to non-native English speakers, but they can also be great fun for everyone. Here's an activity to try with children ages nine and up. Either in adult-child pairs or in a group of children led by one or more adults, brainstorm as many idioms and expressions as you can think of and write them down. Once you have a good amount written down, let each child and adult choose an expression to illustrate literally. Think of the laughter and delight that will be generated by illustrating such expressions as "monkey business," "the pot calling the kettle black," "two heads are better than one" or "time flies."

To acquaint non-native English speakers or younger children with idioms and other non-literal expressions, check out The Idiom Connection ([www.idiomconnection.com](http://www.idiomconnection.com)). This site answers some basic questions and provides an index of English Idioms & Quizzes. The expressions are categorized alphabetically and by themes such as animal, color and money. Alongside each saying, you will find its meaning and a sentence incorporating the expression. Idiom Quizzes appear at the end of each category with prompts to replace certain words in a sentence with the appropriate idiom.

Connecting books with children's hobbies and afterschool activities is one way to keep school age and middle school children interested in and excited about reading. For example, for children involved in ballet, check out [www.balletbooks.com](http://www.balletbooks.com) and explore the links for Children's Ballet Movement & Instruction Books and for Children's Ballet Story and Other Books. You can search online for books related to children's hobbies and interests by going to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Select the Books category and click on Browse Subjects. When you click on Children' Books, you will be directed to a page with Browse categories such as Animals; Arts & Music; Reference & Nonfiction; Science, Nature & How It Works and Sports & Activities. Click on the category headings most relevant to a child's favorite pastimes and activities and read summaries and reviews of related books. Many library Web sites also let you search for books within the children's collection by keywords. Even better, take a trip to the library and ask the children's librarian for recommendations that connect with children's hobbies and interests.

## 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

Discuss how you can incorporate action words from a favorite story or book into a gross motor activity by acting out the words.

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

Separate into small groups of participants. Distribute the same set of pictures to each group and have each group create their own story based on the pictures. Share the stories with the whole group and discuss the differences and/or similarities.

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

Discuss the advantages of parents prereading books before reading them to their children.

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

On strips of paper, write sentences from children's books that contain colorful action words. Separate into small groups or pairs of participants. Have each group or pair read aloud the sentences incorporating gestures that convey the meaning of each action word. Share the sentences and gesture ideas 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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